

# Acrostic Poem

Acrostic poems can be used to express ideas about concepts, people, or primary source materials. Students analyze and interpret a social studies topic in an acrostic poem.

## Instructions:

Print the title of the topic vertically, letter by letter, along the left margin of the page. Each letter then becomes the starting point for a word, phrase, or sentence that describes the topic.

## Concept    Opposing Concept

M  
A  
G  
N  
A  
  
C  
A  
R  
T  
A

D  
I  
V  
I  
N  
E  
  
R  
I  
G  
H  
T  
  
O  
F  
  
K  
I  
N  
G  
S

C onflict with England  
O ver tyranny  
M otivated by an unjust  
M onarchy that  
O ppresses our  
N ew World  
  
S ometimes  
E verything that is right or  
N atural pleads for  
S eparation  
E ngland hath told freedom to depart!  
  
C onnection should be severed  
O r  
M any more  
M en will lose  
O ur  
N atural Rights  
  
S eparate from  
E uropean Depravity  
N ow!  
S eek the  
E mbrace of our king: The Law

## STUDENT SAMPLE

After reading and discussing the document *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, this student wrote her Acrostic Poem.

# "I Am" Poem

An "I Am" Poem is a poem about a person, a group of people or even an inanimate object which uses the ideas of emotions and senses. This writing activity works best in a class when students are given a variety of points of view when studying a topic or event in history.

## **Instructions:**

Have students follow the template below by completing the sentences. Afterwards, they can read point-and-counter point poems aloud to share contrasting views about the event.

I am

I wonder

I hear

I see

I am

I pretend

I feel

I touch

I worry

I cry

I am

I understand

I say

I dream

I try

I hope

I am

## Narrative Poem

A narrative poem or free verse is about a character or an important event.

### **Instructions:**

Narrative poems can be created by arranging the events in sequence.

This poem tells a story in an arrangement of actions or a sequence of events. It celebrates ideas and images in rhythms and rhymes.

### Fredrick Douglass, *Why Am I a Slave?*

I am a slave

I never knew my father through

He may have been master Aaron Antony or so

All was Dark here

And there.

As a young child of nearly seven

My mother died and went up to heaven.

To gain some truth in life

I had to read and write.

All was Dark here

And there.

I was a slave with an aching heart

Expected never to be smart.

The turning point came to me

In my fight with slave driver Convey to be free.

I seized Convey by the throat

As a result I rose with my hope.

Give a man a bad master

He aspires a good master.

Give a man a good master

He aspires to be his own master.

All was Dark here

And there.

There is a better day coming.

Right is of no sex and truth is of no color.

I was a slave with a mission

My life was dedicated to oppression

I was not long in finding truth.

All was Dark here

And there.