

## Journalism/Creative Writing Extended Project Poetry Track

### Step One: Types of Poem Collections

Over the next several weeks you're going to be dedicating your time to creating a longer poetry collection. When it's all said and done, your collection should be **at least** ten to fifteen pages, but can be longer if you wish. Through handouts, I'll be walking you through each step of creating this piece. Some stuff is stuff we've learned previously in class. Some things will come naturally; others will be more difficult for you. Stick with it. You'll end up with a fantastic piece you can be proud of.

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For this first day, we're going to look at the two main types of poetry collections: narrative and thematic. You'll look at a couple of examples of each and then decide what type of collection you'd like to write.

#### Narrative Poetry Collections

Narrative poetry collections is essentially telling a story through a series of poems. These poems build on one another like chapters build on one another. To look up a couple of examples, go to Amazon.com and search for the following books. When you click on the book's page, click on the "Look Inside" button on the top of the cover's photo. You can scroll through the first few pages of the book and read/see how the poems build on one another in a narrative fashion:

- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo
- *Glass* by Ellen Hopkins

#### Thematic Poetry Collections

Thematic poetry collections are poems that are all centers around a certain topic or theme. The poems don't necessarily have to connect narratively (though occasionally they do). Most often the poems in the collection show different facets of the overarching topic or theme. To look up a couple of examples, go to Amazon.com and search for the following books. When you click on the book's page, click on the "Look Inside" button on the top of the cover's photo. You can scroll through the first few pages of the book and read/see how the poems build on one another in a thematic fashion:

- *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman
- *What the Living Do* by Marie Howe
- *Each and Her* by Valerie Martinez
- *And Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou