

Journalism/Creative Writing Extended Project
Poetry Track

Step Ten:
Titles

Titles can play a very important role in poetry, perhaps even more so than in prose. Because you're more limited on space when it comes to poetry, titles can then become a "key" to unlocking meaning, giving tangibility to what you're writing about, adding another layer of meaning, etc. Don't underestimate the power of titles.

Go through the outline you've got so far and give a "working title" to each of the poems you're planning on writing. "Working" title means that it may very well be changed later, but it will give you a good foundational starting place. You should have enough information on your outline to be able to give a working title to each. However, when you start writing your poems in a couple of days, know that you have full reign to change it as needed.

Poetry collections will also have an overarching title for the collection as a whole. This overall title should appear on a cover page with the poet's byline (the cover page does **not** count for your page count) and then the poems should appear on each subsequent pages and have their own titles.

For a cheesy example, if I had a collection of poems entitled "Rainbow", then my cover page would say:

Rainbow

By: Sarah Vondra

centered in the very middle of the whole page (with nothing else on the page). Then on each subsequent page you'd find the poems "Red", "Orange", "Yellow", "Green", "Blue", and "Purple".