

# Power of the Pen: Identities and Social Issues in Poetry and Plays

CLASS TWO • Assignment

First, identify a social issue that matters to you. This can be something you have personal experience with, something that matters within your community, or something you have read about and believe is important.

Then, think about an emotion you have had about this issue. This might be a feeling of anger, sadness, joy, or pride; it might be a sense of empowerment or discouragement; or it might be a feeling not listed here.

Then, choose one of the options below for your writing about your emotional take on this issue.

**Option A: Write a poem that uses the objective correlative.** Choose an object that you can use to hold and reflect your emotion. Describe the object in a way that shows how you feel about this issue. You might place the object in a physical setting that will show the reader what it represents, or you might include references to news articles or popular culture that will help the reader connect the object to the issue.

\*For help on thinking about the objective correlative, you can refer back to Dana Levin's video lecture and to the two poems on the Week 2 Readings document.

**Option B: Write a dialogue in which two or more characters explore the issue without talking about it directly.** Give one of the characters your own feeling on the issue, and the other character(s) opposing or questioning positions on the issue. As you write, notice whether your characters draw toward an agreement or a resolution, or whether they remain opposed.

\*For help on thinking about dialogue and character, you can refer back to Sam Hunter and Peter Gil-Sheridan's video lectures and to the play on the Week 2 Readings document.

