

Free Verse

The lines below are the opening of a poem called "Song of Myself" by the great American poet Walt Whitman. It is an example of free verse, which is the only kind of poem that has no rules at all. It does not have rhyme or regular meter. Free verse typically relies on imagery, alliteration, etc. to convey meaning.

I CELEBRATE myself, and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.



I loafe and invite my soul,
I lean and loafe at my ease observing a spear of summer grass.

My tongue, every atom of my blood, form'd from this soil, this air,
Born here of parents born here from parents the same, and their
parents the same,
I, now thirty-seven years old in perfect health begin,
Hoping to cease not till death.

Creeds and schools in abeyance,
Retiring back a while sufficed at what they are, but never forgotten,
I harbor for good or bad, I permit to speak at every hazard,
Nature without check with original energy.

DIRECTIONS: On the back of this page, write your own poem using the free verse form. You can write about anything you want, using any format that you want. Focus on expressing whatever it is that you want to express.