

**Check out these writing prompts
from Jazz in the Middle Teaching Artists!**

Prompt #1: “An Ode to…”

An **ode** is a type of poem or song that is focused on something or someone that is praiseworthy. Odes elevate ordinary, under-appreciated, overlooked people and items to the light and show, according to the writer, why they should be.

Watch: [An Ode to Thrift Stores by Ariana Brown](#)

Watch: [Ode to my Mother’s Plaintains by Rudy Francisco](#)

- Think of somebody, or some thing that brings you joy. Think of a person who makes you smile, an item you can’t imagine living without.
- Create a list of 5 characteristics or qualities of this person, place, or item. Be as specific as possible.

Write an ode expressing why this person or thing is so meaningful and special to you. What memories are held? Why should everyone join you in celebration of them?

Prompt #2: I found a poem...

A **found poem** is poetry that is created or made up of words/phrases from other places such as speeches, lyrics, advertisements, documents, pretty much anywhere you could find words.

Watch the poem ["Break Dance" by Anthony McPherson](#) (a poem made up of different song lyrics)

Write a poem made up entirely of words or phrases you find around the house, or on your walk throughout the day.

- Collect as much as you can in an allotted amount of time (throughout your day, or spend 30 minutes to an hour walking around your house or neighborhood).
- Sit down to arrange the phrases into a poem that communicates a feeling, idea, experience, or message you want to express!