



Ryan Learning Center

# Thinking Creatively: Cinquain Poetry

Some forms of poetry follow specific rules to create patterns and build meaning. A cinquain (pronounced SING-kane) is an unrhymed, five-line poem. Follow the directions below to create a cinquain that teaches others about a work of art.

Select an artwork in the museum’s galleries or from the [collection](#) page of the museum’s website as the inspiration for your poem.

**Artist name, artwork title:**

---

Look closely at your chosen artwork and use your observation skills to respond to the prompts below to write your poem. Share your finished poem in small groups or with the class. See if others can guess what work of art you wrote about.

**Line 1** - one *noun* (a person, place or thing) identifying the subject of the artwork

---

**Line 2** - two *adjectives* (descriptive words) that tell us about the subject of the artwork

---

**Line 3** - three *verbs* (action words) ending in -ing that tell us what’s happening in the artwork

---

**Line 4** - four words or a four-word phrase describing emotions related to the subject of the artwork

---

**Line 5** - one noun that is a *synonym* (a word that has nearly the same meaning) of the subject of the artwork

---

Example: *Nightlife*, Archibald Motley



**Bronzeville**

**joyful, stylish**

**Swaying, flirting, chatting**

**We dance all night**

**Nightlife**