Rap or Spoken Word Poem

1. Choose a text you have read recently.

2. On a piece of paper, jot down a few ideas from the text, key words, ideas it makes you think about, images it creates in your mind, feelings it inspires in you, and your opinions.

3. Use your jot notes to create a rap or a spoken word poem about the text you have read.

Try a rap! It:
- **has a strong introduction to hit your subject and catch attention**
- **often includes a refrain—a portion of text that repeats throughout the piece**
- **often has rhyming words—maybe in a short stream (e.g., going, throwing, growing) or built into the verses as a rhyme scheme**
- **incorporates a background beat from a piece of music or your own rhythms**

Try a spoken word poem! It:
- **has rhythm to keep the poem moving from one line to the next**
- **uses repetition by returning to the same word or phrase multiple times to keep listeners focused on the main idea**
- **has no specific rhyme scheme but may use rhymes to add emphasis or feeling**
- **may be performed with or without music**

4. Present your rap or poem to class members.

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