<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Originality 1-4 points</th>
<th>Creative Expression 1-4 points</th>
<th>Overall Impact 1-4 points</th>
<th>Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics 1-4 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Distinguished (4 points)** | • Writing is based on an original idea or uncommon theme.  
• Writing includes certain elements of originality. For example, in a unique voice or unexpected element.  
• Writing is expressive, including figurative language and detailed descriptions that engage the reader.  
• The poem’s form is clear and meets all relevant requirements of the form (sonnet, sestina, villanelle, etc.) such as rhyme, scheme, meter, stanza length, etc. and uses them correctly.  
• If rhyme is required, the rhymes are mostly interesting.  
• The writing demonstrates awareness of audience’s needs.  
• The form of the poem is appropriate to the subject.  
• The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a more potent way than ever before.  
• There is one or no errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.  
• Punctuation is utilized appropriately or, if not used, is due to content/style choices, not errors. |
| **Proficient (3 points)** | • Writing is based on an original idea OR includes certain elements of originality. A couple of phrases or ideas may be revisited or underdeveloped.  
• Writing is expressive, including some figurative language and/or detailed description.  
• The poem's form is clear and meets most relevant requirements of the form (sonnet, sestina, villanelle, etc.) such as rhyme, scheme, meter, stanza length, etc. and uses them correctly in most of the piece.  
• If rhyme is required, the rhymes are sometimes predictable.  
• The writing demonstrates some awareness of the audience’s needs.  
• The form of the poem is appropriate to the subject.  
• The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject.  
• There are one or two distracting grammatical or word choice errors. |
| **Apprentice (2 points)** | • Some evidence of original thought is present, but the writing is based on a common theme and does not include elements of originality.  
• Writing includes some descriptive words and includes efforts at figurative language but needs improvement in order to engage the reader.  
• The poem’s form is not clear and fails to meet most relevant requirements of the form (sonnet, sestina, villanelle, etc.) such as rhyme, scheme, meter, stanza length, etc.  
• If rhyme is required, the rhymes are mostly predictable.  
• The piece, while coherent, does not demonstrate an understanding of the audience’s needs.  
• The form of the poem should be more appropriate to the subject.  
• The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject, but this is accomplished through clichés, worn-out images, or other predictable choices.  
• There are several distracting grammatical and/or word choice errors. |
| **Novice (1 point)** | • The writing feels like a retelling and has a common theme. Poem may be repetitive or feel rushed.  
• Writing is very simple and lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader.  
• The poem does not seem to be in form or meets no relevant requirements of the form (sonnet, sestina, villanelle, etc.) such as rhyme, scheme, meter, stanza length, etc. and uses them correctly in most of the piece.  
• The audience does not seem to have been considered.  
• The form of the poem is not appropriate to the subject.  
• The poem does not enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject.  
• No poetic devices are used.  
• Due to numerous grammatical and word choice errors, the writing is difficult to understand. |