

Changing identities: Poetry Takeover

Guidelines for museums and galleries

Firstly, thank you for participating in the **History Festival Poetry Takeover**! We hope your visitors will be inspired by the collection that your institution values and supports. Our goal is to encourage young people to engage with objects, think creatively, connect with the them *Changing Identities* and then compose a poem of any kind – slam, haiku, stanza etc

- If a school group contacts you and is keen to participate, then please use the reflection cards and notes we have developed to support the visit.
- As part of the orientation it is suggested that students sit down together for ten minutes to introduce yourself and for a briefing including the rules, toilets, emergency exit and expectations (i.e. being respectful of other visitors – remind them that whispering voices are valued).
- If your students are new to your museum/gallery, walk them through the whole place quickly before you start the object hunt.
- Once students are starting their hunt, encourage them to wander into every part of the museum/gallery. Only once they have had a look right through the place should they start to think about the object that inspires them the most.
- They have plenty of time, so now encourage them to go slow and let their imaginations wander – they have up to an hour!
- When students are wandering, encourage them to think in broad and even outrageous terms about the object. Pose alternative ideas to just the history of the object. They could also think about the objects use, its journey, its relevance to today, any of its previous owners, how it got to Australia, why it is in a museum, something it reminds them of, how it was made etc.
- Encourage the students to think creatively. There is no wrong answer.
- Let the choice of object drive the type of poem the student selects.
- If students have not yet found an object that appeals to them after 25-30 minutes, encourage and support them to make a decision.
- Before they leave, ask the students to take photos of the objects so they will have a record.
- Students will then return to their classroom to write their poems. The teachers will take charge of the next step, which is selecting the poems that will be submitted to the History Festival.

Many thanks and feedback welcome

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S
HISTORY FESTIVAL
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