

Name: _____

Date: _____

9.2

Planning Anaphora Poems

Planning

In writing, it is important to think about what you want to accomplish before you begin. This exercise will help you do that. First consider what you are going to write: a poem that uses anaphora to describe different aspects of your own personality.

Think about how Harjo does this: She uses the horses as representatives of different parts of the woman's identity. Horses have an important role in Native American culture, so it's likely that this helped influence Harjo's choice.

1. Think about your own life and the things that are most important to you. What will you use to represent the different parts of your identity?
2. Think about the ways you might use anaphora. You could start each line by saying, "I am like ____" or, "My body is ____" or, "I consist of ____." You could also think of your own phrase to repeat at the start of most of your poem's lines. Think about it, and type that phrase here.

Organizing

Now that you have an idea of how you will include anaphora, you need to develop ideas about how to organize the different characteristics. In this exercise you'll use the same ideas Harjo did. Follow the prompts below to list the parts of your personality you will write about in the poem.

3. Harjo's second stanza describes what the horses are made of, using things from the natural world. List at least two features from nature that are metaphors for what you are made of. For example, if you are stubborn, you might describe yourself as a boulder, because it is not easily moved.
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