

Planning Guide

Occasion Poem

I. Introduction – First stanza**

- A. The occasion (central idea, setting, series of happenings, or situation)
- B. Significant characters
- C. Set the stage, type of poem, and structure using figurative and sensory language

II. Stanzas*

- A. Identify the event or main idea
- B. Supporting details using figurative and sensory language
- C. Reflections or ideas that contribute to message

III. Final stanza and outcome

- A. Outcome that conveys the message of the poem
- B. Insight using figurative and sensory language
- C. Parting thought

*There is no set number of events or details. Poets may choose any creative structure to express message of the poem that builds on a theme.

**Consider the conventions of poetry

Point of View

By Alice Schellhorn Magrane

I'm sitting in a leather seat and have my seatbelt on;
My backpack's up above me.
My familiar world is gone.

I look up at my father's face, and he smiles and winks his eye;
It makes me know I'll be alright,
'Cause he's a confident guy.

I glance out of the window—it's such a gloomy day;
There's rain and drizzle all around.
The sky's a dreary gray.

But then I feel something happening—the wheels are turning 'round;
I hear the roar of engines.
I think we're leaving the ground!

Then the ground beneath us fades away and my heart is pounding fast;
We're going high above the clouds.
This really is a blast!

The pilot's voice is loud and clear, "We're at 30,000 feet";
This is my first time on a plane!
It's a feeling that can't be beat!!

But the most amazing thing I saw was the sun shining, dazzling and bright;
Once the plane had flown over the clouds,
The sky was blue and light.

So now when days are gloomy and dark, and I'm feeling sort of down;
I remember that up there, over the clouds,
The sun is still shining down!

Planning Organizer Occasion Poem

The “what” and the “who”	First and second stanza	The speaker is sitting with his or her father while waiting nervously for their trip to begin.
	Occasion	
	Significant characters	
	Set the stage and structure	
	Third stanza	The speaker describes what is seen out of the window.
	Fourth stanza	The speaker hears the engines of the plane and shows excitement.
	Fifth stanza	The speaker describes his or her nervous feelings as the plane starts to reach the clouds.
	Sixth stanza	The pilot describes the altitude and the speaker reveals that it is his or her first airplane ride
	Seventh stanza	The speaker describes the amazing sky above the clouds.
	Eight stanza	The speaker recalls the first plane ride when things seem gloomy.

Revision Checklist Occasion Poem

Occasion _____

Significant
characters _____

Set the stage _____

First stanza*

Identify _____

Support _____

Reflection _____

Second stanza

Identify _____

Support _____

Reflection _____

Final outcome

Occasion _____

Insight _____

Parting thought _____

Figurative and sensory language**	Conventions of Poetry	Specific details
_____	_____	_____

The poem should include:

An introduction that focuses attention on the subject and prepares the reader for what is to follow

Supporting details in a logical order that helps the reader understand the message

Transitions to give stanzas coherence

Conclusion that may restates the occasion in fresh words and states an insight or a lesson learned from the experience

*No set number of events or details

**Use tally marks each time figurative and sensory language or other conventions of poetry are used.