

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

Snowstorm
By Alice Schellhorn Magrane

S
w
i
r
l
i
n
g,
f
l
o
a
t
i
n
g,
quietly
d
r
i
f
t
i
n
g
D
O
W
N
W
A
R
D.
D.

Frosting, dazzling...

B * L * I * N * D * I * N * G W * H * I * T * E * N * E * S * S.

I am transfixed, unmoving, still.

For one silent moment

I forget

what

lies

beneath.

The earth,
frozen, dark,
Cradles small ones wintering,
Roots, bulbs, leaves, grass;
Covered, blanketed,
Immobile.
A deep freeze,
holding

Life

Suspended.

Time flowing,
SNOWMELTING
Earth shuddering.
Roots and burrows
Quickening,
Buzzing,
squirming,
chirping,
singing,

BURSTING!

SPRING.

Planning Organizer Occasion Poem

The “what” and the “who”	First stanza	Snow gently falling
	Occasion	
	Significant characters	
	Set the stage and structure	
	Second stanza	The snow intensifies and the speaker forgets what lies beneath
	Third stanza	
	Fourth stanza	
	Fifth stanza	
	Sixth stanza	

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.