



Evaluating Your First Draft

Before you give your poem to a fellow writer or teacher for review, evaluate it yourself. Check off each item after you've considered it, and write notes so you can go back and make changes.

Checked	What to Look For	Notes
	Unique images versus clichés: Do you use your own, fresh metaphors?	
	Powerful verbs: Are your verbs precise and descriptive?	
	Line breaks: Do you end lines with meaningful words?	
	Stanza breaks: Are you intentional about stanza break?	
	Meter/Sound: How does your poem sound when you read it aloud? Do the words flow together? Does your poem have a rhythm? Can you make small word changes to enhance alliteration or assonance?	
	Word choice: Can you justify every word in your poem?	
	Formatting: How does the poem look on the page?	