Poetry Prompt #1
Due April 30th - ENDED

Welcome to the #DewMoreInTheHouse youth poetry challenge! We hope that you will share your poem with us.

Rules & Eligibility

1. For 5th-12th graders only
2. Must reside in Baltimore City or surrounding Baltimore County
3. Poem must be original: completely thought up and produced by the youth (5th-12th grader) entering. You can be inspired by another written work, but cannot copy or plagiarize words of another.
4. No profanity
5. We are humbled that you would take the time to share your beautiful and original poem with us, but submissions after the due date are not eligible for a prize. Please look out for other poetry prompts throughout July and submit a new piece for those challenges!
6. If you win 1st place, you must sit out one round before entering again.

How to Enter!

1. WRITTEN: Submit your poem to info@dewmorebaltimore.org
   VIDEO: A) Follow us @dewmorepoetry B) Post it on your Instagram IGTV with #DewMoreInTheHouse.
   C) Be sure to make your page is public for judges on the submission date
2. If you feel comfortable, also post the zip code(s) that you live in. This helps us to continue with our community programs and outreach.
3. All writing or performance styles are welcome! See samples below for ideas.
4. Winners will be announced within 2 days after the due date.
5. If you are a winner, you will be contacted to collect your information to receive your prize. Remember: you can win just by entering!
6. Stay tuned to get the next challenges due the 15th and 30th/31st of each month through July 15th. Follow us on IG, Facebook for other opportunities.

Thank you for being bold and taking the time to share your work!
Poetry Challenge Prompt #1 & Description

In this time of intentionally avoiding the outside world, many are left to truly go inside themselves. Especially those of us who are artists and writers that tap into the present or sixth sense of creative introspection.

So in that spirit, we at DewMore Baltimore challenge you, the youth to pick up your pen and write an original piece using the following quote as a prompt and guide for your poem...

“I gotta write
I have to write
These lines are my life”

“This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal. I know the world is bruised and bleeding, and though it is important not to ignore its pain, it is also critical to refuse to succumb to its malevolence. Like failure, chaos contains information that can lead to knowledge—even wisdom. Like art.”

—Toni Morrison

Tools and ideas to help inspire your original poem

1. Here is a poem I wrote on this topic: [written poem sample](#).
2. Here is the video version of that poem: [performance poem video](#).

Peace,

Slangston Hughes

DewMore Baltimore