

Poetry Rubric: Checklist Aid for Assessing, Editing Poems

Considerations	3	2	1
Lines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varied or set lengths reinforce content? Enjambments support? Line enacts meaning? 	Consistently maintained use of craft	Lines don't obstruct but don't maximize poem's thrust	Line breaks have no consistent logic
Sounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assonance, consonance ties to connect? Support/underscore content? Ear and tongue feel? 	Consistent ear to sound aspect, plays off tongue well	Fit target mood; but jarring sounds, register shift without purpose	Awkward, clumsy, mismatch for tone or content
Meter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beat supports content, pace? Rhythm lulls or is frenetic? 	Subtle technique recedes behind content	Slavish adherence, overly controlled or random w/o logic	Absent, or there then lost
Look: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matches target form? Presentation on page complements meaning? Parses ideas w enough room 	Form or shape complements subject; leads eye at right pace for concept density	Some bland or awkwardness but does not obstruct understanding	Presentation unintentionally structurally impedes
Compression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra adv, adj, articles, prepositional phrases, redundant ideas? Any unintentional tangent that dies off or, miscues? 	Doesn't obstruct meaning, ideas hook reader forward, any repetition deepens meaning, new context	Distractingly saggy or too telegraphic; To skim you don't lose much, or else lose the thread	Uneven density. Summaries and wordy deep details
Best words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific? Contrast? Abstract? 	Natural, in best place	Vague, can be moved w/o loss	Predictable & too many of them
Show/Tell: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oblique or direct? Concrete details? Editorial? 	Enough material for reader to connect, think, participate in ride	Too plainly with no nuance, or leaps too unconnected, distracting	Slanted language telling pov's judgements or accidental chaos
Memorable, Distinct: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vivid images? best pov? Compare freshly, surprises? Could be written by anyone? Resonate off other work adding something new? 	Compelling, distinct, bears re-reading to get more layers	Passes zombie test, enjoyable once, a line or phrase stay	Boring, vague, bland, cliché
Persuasive, useful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observant? grounded? Contrived, sentimental? Necessary story? 	Rings true, causes tingles or insight, feel you've travelled	Feels credible, interesting or exciting, worth reading	Irritates, has ambiguous point, too sweet, too harsh, too done
Totals →			

