

# Poetry Workshop: Jose Marti Park Activity

by Laurel Nakanishi

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*Explore Monostich Poetry! Using observations of the park, participants will write short, one-line poems on colorful paper. Then, we will loop these poems into a collaborative poetry chain that will grow as more people add poems.*

## Materials

Colored construction paper cut into even strips (2"x11")

Stapler and staples

Masking tape

Colored markers

Table and chairs (for writing)

## Procedure

1. Greet park goers and invite them to make monostich poetry.
2. Define monostich = a poem that only has one line.
3. Distribute paper and markers.
4. Ask participants to write one line about the park. If a participant seems stuck, brainstorm with them by asking one or two of these questions:
  - a. What is your favorite thing about the park?
  - b. What is one memory that you have in this park?
  - c. If you were a bird looking down on this park, what would you notice?
  - d. What does the park sound like on an average day?
  - e. If this park were to have a personality, what would it be like?
  - f. What colors surround you in this park?
  - g. What smells do you notice in this park?
  - h. When is the best time to visit this park?
5. After participants come up with an idea, ask them to describe it. It may help to have them imagine that they are writing to someone who has never seen this park before – what details could they add to help them really see it?
6. After they finish writing, encourage participants to take a photo with their poem (or artfully arrange it somewhere in the park) and post it to social media with #NationalWaterDance.
7. Then, help participants staple their paper in a loop, creating a paper chain. Hang this chain from a tree or fence or tent pole in the beginning of the day, and have participants add their poems to the chain so that they can see it grow.

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