# #writeout
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CONTRASTING WORLDS

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INTRODUCTION

Today we explore the influence of human artifacts on natural landscapes (or vice versa). We will be gathering artifacts from both worlds to ultimately show the connection between humans and nature.

THE WRITING

- **Step 1: Collect Artifacts**
  Choose a location either new or familiar such as a park, your school grounds, a city sidewalk, or a country grove. Gather physical artifacts, take photographs, draw pictures, record sound, or record video to collect at least one artifact from the natural world and one artifact from the human world existing in the same space.

- **Step 2: Describe Your Artifacts in Poetry**
  For each artifact write a stanza (or more) describing the object utilizing poetic devices from your Writer's Tool Box such as imagery, comparison, personification, and sound devices. Think about what makes them unique, what sets them apart, and/or how they contrast each other. Feel free to write down personal reactions as well, you are ultimately the lens through which these objects are filtered.

- **Step 3: Discuss the Connection in Poetry**
  The final stanza should be about the connection between these two artifacts. Where do you see the natural and human world melding, deteriorating, flourishing? What truth can be found here? How do you fit into this landscape?
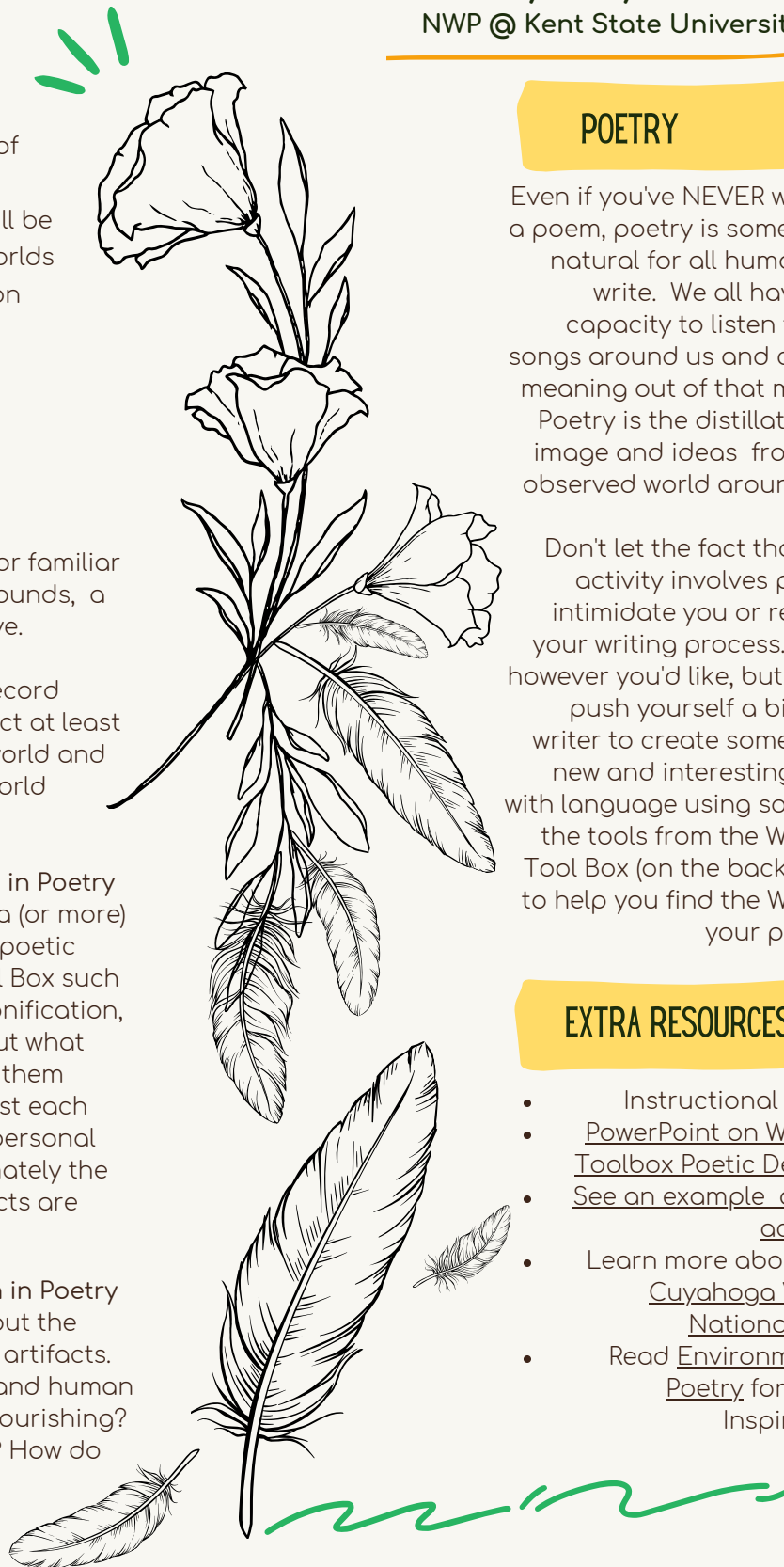
POETRY

Even if you've NEVER written a poem, poetry is something natural for all humans to write. We all have the capacity to listen to the songs around us and create meaning out of that music. Poetry is the distillation of image and ideas from the observed world around us.

Don't let the fact that this activity involves poetry intimidate you or restrict your writing process. Write however you'd like, but try to push yourself a bit as a writer to create something new and interesting. Play with language using some of the tools from the Writer's Tool Box (on the back side), to help you find the WHY of your poem.

EXTRA RESOURCES

- Instructional Video
- PowerPoint on Writer's Toolbox Poetic Devices
- See an example of this activity
- Learn more about the Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- Read Environmental Poetry for more Inspiration

WRITER'S TOOL BOX

PALETTES

Palettes: Figurative Language
To describe your artifact, you have a lot of beautiful tools to help you create vivid, shocking contrasts.

Imagery: describing artifacts based on the senses (smell, taste, sound, touch, sight, movement)
"It's tail knobbed and shiny, and with a heavy weight's punch packed around bone."

Simile: saying your artifact is "like" something else or does something "as" something else does
"[The world] will flame out, like shining from shook foil"

Metaphor: saying your artifact "is" something else
"The city at 3 a.m. is an ungodly mask the approaching day hides behind & from"

Personification: Giving your artifacts (non-human) human qualities
""The pine-trees bend to listen to the autumn wind as it mutters something."

CADENCES

Cadences: Sound Devices
At it's core, poetry is song. So, listen to the rhythms and beats of the location around you to hear what the artifacts have to tell you.

Consonance: repetition of consonant sounds
There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground, and swallows circling with their shimmering sound.

Assonance: repetition of vowel sounds
The plum buds tight and chill soon bloom

STORYBOARDS

Storyboards: Structure
Whether in the first draft or final, you will add some bones to your poem. Here are some ideas.

STRUCTURE #1: BASIC

STANZA 1
Natural Artifact

STANZA 2
Human Artifact

STANZA 3
Connection of Both Artifacts

STRUCTURE #2: EXTEND

STANZA 1
Contrast Both Artifacts

STANZA 2-?
Continued Layors of Contrast

LAST STANZA
Connection of Both Artifacts

STRUCTURE #3: MIRROR

SIDE 1
Short stanzas describing Natural Artifact

SIDE 2
Short stanzas describing Human Artifact

LAST STANZA
Connection of Both Artifacts