Revising Poetry

Poet:_____   Editor:_____

    1. **Read the poem out loud (try using different voices)** Is it easy to read?
- [ ] **Have a peer read it out loud**
  How does it sound? Mark places that don't sound "right" or "good."
  Count the syllables per line.

- [ ] **How and where does your poem capture an idea or a moment in time?**
  1. What is the purpose of your poem?
  2. Does it sound like it was written by you or by just anyone?
  3. Is your poem done? Should it be longer? Where can it be expanded?

- [ ] **Does your poem "Turn a Corner"?**

- [ ] **Levels of thought – Go Deeper! Share something meaningful!**
  1. Basic observations
  2. Descriptive writing using 5 or more senses
  3. Interesting ideas
  4. Deep thoughts, powerful emotions and/or strong memories

- [ ] **Put BL in the margin next to the best line of the poem.**
  This might be "The Builder Line." A Builder Line is the part of the poem that you keep in order to build different versions of the poem around. It might be that you get rid of all your other lines and restart around your Builder Line.

- [ ] **Circle the least interesting line.**
  This will likely have to change. Talk to a few people for ideas to make this part of the poem better.
  Ideas for making lines better:
  1. Use rhyme or alliteration for better sound
  2. Use the 5 senses to be more descriptive
  3. Get rid of the line
  4. Add a metaphor or simile
  5. Add images

- [ ] **Underline 3-5 words that could be better**
  1. Change vague words into more interesting, more specific words
  2. Use a thesaurus
  3. Add a "magic" word from the bean bag word list
  4. Add descriptive adjectives

- [ ] **Get rid of all unnecessary words.**
  If they don't have a purpose get rid of them!

- [ ] **Considerations**
  1. How should the poem be organized? Lines, line breaks, stanzas, concrete poem, etc.
  2. How could this poem be decorated for the anthology?
  3. What colors and fonts should you use?

More Revising Techniques

How do you craft a poem that is interesting to you AND important to other people?

Remove all the nouns and experiment with replacing them. Try random nouns for fun!

Change questions into statements

Remove all verb-adverb combinations. Replace with a more exact verb.

Remove all adjectives and shift them around to different places in the poem.

Cut each line out with scissors and move them around.

Consolidate all the stanzas into one and then add different line breaks.

Change the order of your lines and/or stanzas.

Organize the poem into different shapes (try a concrete poem)

**When different people both love and hate the same lines, there's likely a problem

How does the last line leave the reader?

Change Haiku into other forms:
    Renga
    Hokku
    Haibun
    Renku
    Collaborative Poems