**Spoken Word Presentation – a Riverside tradition**

**Class presentation Dates**

The purpose of the Spoken Word Presentation is to honour the many different types of speaking that people are required to do in their daily lives. Your goal is to combine the expressive and dramatic reading of a poem and present it an interesting or entertaining way.

**Speaking Styles**

The Poetry Slam Finals will afford students three different styles in which to express themselves:

1. Poetry Slam
2. Storytelling
3. Rant
4. **Poetry Slam –2 -3 minutes –** [**here are some great ones**](https://www.ted.com/topics/spoken+word)

**Description**: prepared performance poetry on thought- provoking idea using figurative language such as the following: pun, alliteration, personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, symbolism, imagery, and rhyme and sometimes synecdoche, allusion or irony. They often include recurring motifs or metaphors as per examples.

1. **Oral Storytelling**

Oral storytelling has been entertaining people for time immoral. It can be used to communicate a lesson, a funny experience, or pass down knowledge. It can be used by families to pass down knowledge. For example, in First Nation’s culture, stories,

**☉**  can vary from the sacred to the historical.   
**☉** Some focus on social, political, and cultural ways.   
**☉** Some are entertaining, even humorous.   
**☉** Some tell of personal, family, community or an entire nation’s experiences.   
**☉** Some are “owned” by certain clans or families and can only be told by a member of that group.   
**☉** Others can be told by anyone who knows them and cares for them.   
**☉** Stories reflect the perceptions, relationships, beliefs and attitudes of a particular people.

[The Hummingbird - Haida story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naj6zZakgEg)

[Stuart McLean](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zww8E1mXBAo)

[This I Believe](https://thisibelieve.org/themes/)

You are to prepare a 2-3 minute story to share with the class. It should have a structure and weave between showing and telling. It can be about you or a family member or a story passed down through your family. It should follow the structure of a short story with a hook, setting, rising action, climax and denouement. The purpose can be explicit or inferred, depending on your intent. Language manipulation is encouraged.

1. **Rick Mercer Style Rant- 2-3 mins**

**Editorial or commentary delivered in a convincing fashion**. It is not a calm argument but one that is enthusiastically presented. It focused on an idea, a person or an institution. Can be based on fact but there but the delivery is strongest when it is through comedy or satire. See more tips on the Rant doc in the Writing and Grammar tab

Rick Mercer Rant- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKtqHm_ygu0>

**Tips for writing according to George Orwell:**

George Orwell has earned the right to be called one of the finer writers in the English language through such novels as *1984,* *Animal Farm,* and *Down and Out in Paris and London,* and essays like "Shooting an Elephant."  
  
“Scrupulous writers ask themselves these questions”:

1. **What am I trying to say?**
2. **What words will express it?**
3. **What image, metaphor, idiom will make it clearer or memorable?**
4. **Is this image fresh enough to have an effect?**
5. **Could I put it more shortly?**
6. **Have I said anything that is avoidably ugly?**

One can often be in doubt about the effect of a word or a phrase, and one needs rules that one can rely on when instinct fails. The following rules will cover most cases:

1. Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print; in other words, a cliché.
2. Never use a long word where a short one will do and if it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out; in other words, don’t be excessively wordy – conciseness!!
3. Never use the passive where you can use the active. (“I write poetry” is better than “ I am writing poetry”)
4. Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
5. Use strong verbs and nouns, not just great adjectives. Eg. “strut” instead of “walked”
6. Just write and then fix it later. Use one per idea – this makes it easier to manipulate text and delivery later