

# FOUND POETRY – INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read the text and highlight words and phrases that you find particularly powerful, moving, or interesting about seabirds. Repeat this step if needed.
2. Read your list carefully and delete anything that is dull or doesn't seem right for a poem about seabirds and conservation. If your original list is very long, try to remove half.
3. Think about the tone that words and phrases you've selected convey. The words should communicate meaning as much as possible.
4. You can make minor changes to punctuation or variations to words to make them fit together (such as change the tenses, possessives, plurals, and capitalisations).
5. Your found poem is beginning to take shape! If you feel you absolutely need to add a word to make the poem flow more smoothly, to make sense, or to make a stronger point, you may add up to three words of your own. Only three!
6. Read back over your edited draft again and make any deletions or minor changes.
7. Give your poem a title.
8. Finalise the poem to enhance the overall effect and construction of meaning. Space or arrange the words so that they are poem-like. Pay attention to line breaks, layout, and other elements that will emphasise important words or significant ideas in the poem:
  - Read aloud as you arrange the words! Test the possible line breaks by pausing slightly. If it sounds good, it's probably right.
  - Arrange the words so that they make a rhythm you like. You can space words out so that they are all alone or allruntogether.
  - You can also put key words on lines by themselves.
  - You can shape the poem so that it's wide or tall or shaped a certain way (like a bird).
  - Emphasise words by playing with bold and italics, different sizes of letters, and so forth.
9. At the bottom of the poem, indicate where the words in the poem originally came from.
10. Be prepared to display or perform your found poem to the class.

Instructions adapted from "Found and Headline Poems" from *Getting the Knack: 20 Poetry Writing Exercises* by Stephen Dunning and William Stafford and *Read Write Think* - available from [http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson\\_images/lesson33/found-poem-instructions.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson33/found-poem-instructions.pdf)