**A Found Poem, a Collage of Language (p. 95)**

A found poem uses language discovered in a non-poetic context and turns it into poetry. Writing found poetry is like creating a collage of language, the way a visual artist might use scraps of paper, cloth, feathers, or other objects to produce something new and beautiful.

Found poetry allows you as the writer to manipulate pre-existing texts and create a poem from another author’s words. In order to avoid plagiarism, you MUST cite the source of the found poem in text and should probably note that it is a found poem as well so your audience understands your role in the creation of the poem.

Below are two poems by Al Fogel, which use texts from the Veteran's Benefits Administration almost verbatim. Mr. Fogel has told us that "Headstone Service" and "VA Automobile" are "about 99% pure." In "pure" found poetry, the poet may add line breaks but does not change or omit the actual words.

**Found Poetry by Al Fogel**

**Headstone Service**

*(from Directory Of VA Benefits)*

Headstone or   
grave marker  
furnished  
upon request  
to any member  
of the  
Armed Forces   
whose last   
tour of service   
was terminated honorably   
  
by death   
  
  
Headstone provided without  
  
cost

**VA Automobile**  
  
*(from Directory Of VA Benefits)*

A veteran who suffered a service-connected loss

    of one hand or one foot

    or one knee or one hip

    or permanent loss of use of

    one hand or one foot

    or permanent impairment of vision

    of both eyes

is entitled to an Automobile   
  
  
Payment up to $9,000 provided

    --excluding adaptive equipment

Options:

a)Take prose and by carefully considering line breaks, font, and format turn it into verse.

b)Take key words and or phrases from a source and put them together like a puzzle, creating a unique poem.

c)Blend/use your own words *with* excerpts from the text. You may want to somehow *show* the difference between your words and borrowed ones by using quotations, italics, bold, or another font.

***\*NO MATTER WHAT ARE DOING WITH YOUR RESEARCH YOU NEED TO RECORD THE CITATION INFO TO BE INCLUDED ON A BIBLIOGRAPHY OR WORKS CITED LATER.***

***Example:***

Twinkle, twinkle, little star   
How I wonder what you are.   
  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star   
How I wonder what you are. 

Up above the world so high   
Like a diamond in the sky   
Twinkle, twinkle, little star   
How I wonder what you are!   
  
In the dark blue sky you keep   
And often through my curtain peep   
For you never close your eye  
'Til the sun is in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star

How I wonder what you are   
  
As your bright and tiny spark,   
Lights the traveler in the dark.   
Though I know not what you are,   
Twinkle, twinkle, litte star.   
Twinkle, twinkle, little star

How I wonder what you are!

**Found Poem:**

*Tiny spark*

*In the dark*

*I wonder what you are…*

*Twinkle, twinkle*

*World so bright*

*Close your eye*

*Light’s the traveler in the dark*

*I wonder what you are…*

*Little star*