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SPARK

How to Write an Anti-Ode

Grades 7–12

Type

Poetry

Usually, an ode is written in celebration, but this Spark asks students to write an anti-ode—a poem about something they can’t stand!

What Your Students Will Learn

Students will learn about ode and anti-ode poems.

What You Will Need

- How to Write an Anti-Ode—Handout
 - 1 copy per student

What You Will Do

This Spark was inspired by 826 New Orleans’ annual Pizza Poetry Day. Since 2014, 826 New Orleans has celebrated National Poetry Month, and the power of youth voices, by publishing student poems on pizza boxes for delivery across the city. You can learn more about Pizza Poetry Day on 826 New Orleans’ [website](#).

STEP 1

An ode is a poem that celebrates a person, an event, or an object—it can take the form of a traditional poem, with stanzas, or it can read like a letter.

First, students will read the mentor text on page 1 of [How to Write an Anti-Ode—Handout](#).

- What is the tone of this poem? Does it speak positively or negatively about crawfish?
- If they didn't already know what crawfish was, did the writer give any clues about what kind of food it is? What are they?

Based on the mentor text and the definition of an “ode” above, what do students think an anti-ode is? What are some other instances in which they'd want to write an anti-ode? Create a working, shared definition of “anti-ode” and write it on the board.

STEP 2

Next, students will write their own anti-ode poems about their least favorite food. Pass out page 2 of the handout. Students will list their 3 least favorite foods at the top of each column and then answer the questions about those foods in the boxes.

STEP 3

After students have brainstormed ideas for all 3 foods, they can choose 1 to write their anti-ode poem about.