Noise Poem

1. Select a location as the theme of this poem, such as the forest, the city, home, or a soccer game.

2. Moving down the page, list things associated with this place. “Home” could include telephone, alarm clock, bed, television, furniture, family, dog...

3. Go back down their list and connect a sound to each item. Use onomatopoeia: “telephone – brrrrinng!” Be whimsical: “beds – snore”

4. Using your list, craft a poem from the noise words. Arrange them in a way you like. They could tell a story, or you can focus on the sounds and rhythms by putting them in an order that highlights the noise.

5. Title your work. The setting could be the title of the poem, or it doesn’t have to be. You could make it a guessing game. The title could be “Where Am I?” The reader might figure it out by the end.
Back and Forth, There and Here

1. New home, new school, new friends, new you? Use the following structure for your poem, alternate lines to show us how you’ve changed in your new place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brainstorm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What it was like then and there</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where I’m from

Here

Where I’m from

Here

Where I’m from

Here

Where I’m from

Here

Where I’m from

Here

2. Title your poem.
Place Associations

1. Choose a starting place.

   HERE  home  up  on a path  Germany

   in love  underwater  school  Jupiter

2. Start your poem by writing this first place in one of the circles.

   What does it make you think of? Write the next word. String your associations together like a necklace. Do this for several straight minutes.

3. Can you connect these words in other ways, too? Anything start to sound like a poem?

4. Title your poem.
Hate/Love Poem

5. Make a list of a bunch of things (including places or types of people) you find repulsive.

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6. Choose one that you find compelling, personally meaningful, or full of sensory images and expressions.

______________________________________________

7. Write a poem in which you describe your choice in such a way that it becomes beautiful.

Hint
It’s all about perspective. Write from the point of view of someone or something that needs your hated item.
Who would eat it?
Who (or what) would appreciate its glisten, where you see only slime?
My Lexicon, My Slang, My Colloquialisms:

My Code

8. What do you say all the time? (Maybe your friends poke fun at you about it, maybe it’s something you say to motivate yourself, maybe it’s a private joke) How did it become part of your code?

Make a list:  

What’s the source?  
(your parents, a movie or song, Spanish class, church...)

9. Expand one of these phrases into a poem. Take it apart. Say it fresh. Say it in the voices of people you admire. Say it in the voice of a person you detest. Start and end your poem with your own turn of phrase.

10. Title your poem.
Mentor Writing: Home

1. Reflect and Record.
   - What objects pass through your hands every day?
   - Do you prepare any of your meals in the same way each day?
   - What is your life’s work, and how does it get done each day? What tools do you use, and where do you go to do your work?
   - Do any of your emotions, concerns, or moods follow you through your days?

2. Prewrite.
   - Which of the above objects, places, goals, and feelings define your days?
   - Begin to write lines with an ear for lyrical language.
   - Look for connections, interesting juxtapositions, conflicts or contradictions. Are you at home with yourself?
   - Expect a theme to emerge. How do your days define you?

Daily
by Naomi Shihab Nye

These shrunken seeds we plant,
corn kernel, dried bean,
poke into loosened soil,
cover over with measured fingertips

These T-shirts we fold into
perfect white squares

These tortillas we slice and fry to crisp strips
This rich egg scrambled in a gray clay bowl

This bed whose covers I straighten
smoothing edges till blue quilt fits brown blanket
and nothing hangs out

This envelope I address
so the name balances like a cloud
in the center of sky

This page I type and retype
This table I dust till the scarred wood shines
This bundle of clothes I wash and hang and wash again
like flags we share, a country so close
no one needs to name it

The days are nouns: touch them
The hands are churches that worship the world

Space for Brainstorming
3. Write a “home” poem.
   - Make a day-in-the-life list that pleases your sense of rhythm.
   - Include a single section of your brainstorm (places, or tools, for example), OR include one from each category you may have responded to: objects, meals, tools, places, feelings and thoughts.
   - Let the reader know you better by the way you say you spend your days.

4. Revise.
   - Read your poem aloud to yourself. Do you like the rhythm and the sounds in your poem?
   - Double check: is your theme revealed – maybe clearly, maybe obliquely?
   - Are there images or figurative language that you could add to deepen or expand your poem? Perhaps there are items you could take out to streamline your poem’s sound or theme?
   - Make changes to the structure of each line and to the whole poem until you are satisfied it gives the reader a sense of your days, your place, even a little bit of your self.

5. Submit to elementia!