

The 14-line English sonnet has three four-line units called quatrains followed by two rhyming lines called a couplet. The rhyme scheme is abab, cdcd, efef, gg with the couplet providing a conclusion.

Sonnet Writing Rubric
DUE: March 19th

CATEGORY	Excellent 4	Good 3	Satisfactory 2	Needs Improvement 1
Word Choice	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning.
Support for Topic (Content or Theme)	Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable. Each line has a clear and obvious purpose.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the theme is unsupported.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the theme are unsupported.	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic.
Conclusion (Turn at couplet)	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that the topic has been skillfully addressed.	The conclusion is recognizable and satisfactory, although not insightful or skillful.	Attempt to turn mood or subject is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends or does so in a trite manner.	There is no clear conclusion; the couplet does not turn or shift the mood or subject.
Flow	All lines sound natural and are fluently written. The work has mastered the iambic pentameter meter. 10 syllables per line.	Almost all lines sound natural and when read aloud, but 1 or 2 are stiff and awkward or forced to fit in the meter.	Most lines sound natural when read aloud, but several are stiff and awkward or forced to fit in the meter.	The lines are difficult to read aloud because they sound awkward and do not fit within the required meter.
Rhythm	Rhyme scheme is 100% correct for an English sonnet. abab cdcd efef gg	Works receiving a 3 in this category might have 1 or 2 errors in the rhyme scheme.	Works receiving a 2 in this category may have several errors in the rhyme scheme.	Works receiving a 1 in this category may have written without regard to the expected rhyme scheme for an English sonnet.
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.

TOTAL OF ALL CATEGORIES _____ = _____ % grade

Formatting

- Sonnet must be typed. Pick whatever font you like, just make sure it is readable.
- MLA Heading
- Make sure to use the proper spacing and layout for the poem.

