

Two-Voice Poem Student Handout

Name: _____

This handout will guide you through the process of writing a two-voice poem inspired by the themes of bias and perspective. Use the planning chart and optional templates below to structure your poem and develop two contrasting voices.

Step 1: Plan Your Voices

Fill out the chart below to define your two voices.

	Voice 1	Voice 2
Who are they?		
Where do they live?		
What do they fear?		
What do they hope for?		
What does freedom mean to them?		

Note: You may use the templates below as a starting point for your poem, but they are entirely optional. Feel free to select any structure or style that suits your vision.

Step 2: Poem Template Option 1

Use this template to create alternating lines of dialogue. You may change the order or wording but aim to reflect contrasting experiences.

- Voice 1: I wake up in a place called _____.
- Voice 2: I wake up in _____.
- Voice 1: The air smells like _____.
- Voice 2: The air tastes like _____.
- Voice 1: I walk past _____.
- Voice 2: I walk past _____.
- Voice 1: My voice is heard when I say _____.
- Voice 2: My voice is ignored when I say _____.
- Voice 1: I eat _____.
- Voice 2: I imagine _____.
- Voice 1: I learn from _____.
- Voice 2: I am taught by _____.
- Voice 1: I fear _____.
- Voice 2: I fear _____.
- Voice 1: I dream of _____.

Voice 2: I dream of _____.

Both Voices:

We both breathe the same _____.

We both ache in _____.

We both want _____.

But the world sees us _____.

And the world feeds us _____.

Step 3: Poem Template Option 2

This format is broken into stanzas. Each voice reflects on a shared theme or moment.

Stanza 1 – Introduction

Voice 1: I am the one who _____

I live where _____

Voice 2: I am the one who _____

I live where _____

Stanza 2 – Daily Life

Voice 1: My mornings begin with _____

The smell of _____ fills my air

Voice 2: My mornings begin with _____

The smell of _____ fills my air

Stanza 3 – Family and Survival

Voice 1: We eat _____ when we can

We laugh about _____

Voice 2: We eat _____ every night

We don't talk about _____

Stanza 4 – School / Work / Opportunity

Voice 1: They say I'll grow up to be _____

They tell me I belong in _____

Voice 2: They say I'll grow up to be _____

They tell me I'll never _____

Stanza 5 – Danger or Change

Voice 1: The first time I heard the warning, I _____

I stayed inside because _____

Voice 2: The first time I heard the warning, I _____

I ran because _____

Stanza 6 – Freedom and Voice

Voice 1: Freedom means _____

My voice is heard when I _____

Voice 2: Freedom means _____
My voice is silenced when I _____

Stanza 7 – Shared Humanity

Voice 1: We both _____ when we are afraid
We both remember _____
Voice 2: We both _____ when we are afraid
We both remember _____

Stanza 8 – Closing Contrast or Unity

Voice 1: My truth is _____
But no one listens.
Voice 2: My truth is _____
But no one sees.

Optional Unified Ending:

And yet we breathe the same _____
And dream under the same _____

Step 4: Title and Artist's Statement

Choose a creative title that captures the theme of your poem.

Then write your 150–200 word artist's statement explaining:

- What topic you chose and why
- Who each voice represents
- What literary devices you used
- What you hope readers will understand or feel after reading your poem