Writing the Ode: Let me tell you how much I love\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The ode. Never will you find a more fanciful, exaggerated, over-the-top poetry style in the world. Nothing compares to the ode. It is a poem without measure, without equal. In it, you will find how much love a person has for…whatever! Another person, an item, an object, a place…anything can be discussed in an ode. This is a chance to let your persuasive nature come through in poetry.

**First** – choose something you are very passionate about…or not. In fact, if you write your ode about something really unusual, you’ll have more fun. Think of an item that you’d like to tell people about – something that you can get really excited about.

**Second** – Brainstorm adjectives and descriptive phrases for that item. Use exaggeration and hyperbole. Use simile and metaphor. Make the descriptions so over-the-top that they can’t possibly be believed. You’re not writing the poem yet…just being descriptive.

**Third** – Once you’ve got a good number of descriptors (at least 10…more is better), start putting them together in a logical order. Your lines don’t have to rhyme; they just need to make sense.

**Fourth** – When you’ve got your rough draft written, check it over for content and mechanics. Do your lines make sense? Are you using real words? Check spelling and grammar and punctuation. Does it make you laugh? It is outrageous? If you’ve got something you like (and it follows the directions), rewrite it in a clean, final form onto a new sheet of paper.

**Finally** – Be ready to read your ode. You need to read it in an overly-dramatic fashion. Let your emotions come through. Be outrageous. This is something that you love more than life itself. That has to show in your presentation. You should practice reading it out loud at home, either in front of your family or some friends. Have fun!

In Addition: ON the day we read the poems, you must have the subject of your poem with you to enhance your dramatic reading. One of these will be acceptable:

\* The ACTUAL object being discussed in your poem.

OR

\* A photograph of the ACTUAL object being discussed in your poem. NOT a piece of artwork, not a picture drawn and colored by you or someone else…but a PICTURE of the item.

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