

Session Plan: Collage Poetry

Duration: 1 hour

Materials: Poem templates; x3 introductory YouTube videos; materials produced in DNA workshop (story about you/description of place or people in your family), materials produced in Mapping Manchester workshop (maps and any notes you made) and materials produced in the sessions on family history with the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre **OR** if no materials written in these sessions, a copy of the handouts from these sessions will suffice; scissors; paper; glue; pen

Aims: In this session, students will write a collage poem that plays with the metaphor of 'It's in my DNA' to think through the relationship between place, history and family identity.

Objectives: By the end of the session students should:

- Reflect on how poets build poems out of images
- Understand what a collage poem is
- Use collage poem methods to write a poem on theme of 'It's in my DNA' that reflects on the relationship between place, history and family identity

Introduction and Warm-up (15 minutes)

Play video 1. In this video students are:

- Introduced to collage poem format and today's task of writing a collage poem
- Guided through a 'warm-up' creative visualisation exercise to get them 'thinking like a poet' (aka using images)

During the guided visualisation, encourage students to include as much detail as possible. Pause the video if students need more time to write their responses.

Exercise 1: Making a word list

Play video 2: In this video students are guided to:

- Go through their creative visualisation exercise and make lists of words to do with place, family and history
- Reflect on how place, family and history have shaped who they are

Key questions for the reflection:

- 1) Are there any places where the categories of place, history and family overlap?
- 2) Is it possible to separate these categories out or are they interlinked to make you, you?
- 3) Is there anything that is really important to your sense of identity that's not in these lists? If so, encourage students to write this down.

Exercise 2: Assembling your collage poem (25 minutes)

Play video 3: In this video students will be guided to:

- 1) Cut up their word lists plus the materials they may have produced during Jerome and Jo's sessions as well as the workshops with the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Racial Justice Centre (or the handouts from these sessions if they haven't completed their work)
- 2) Be guided to reassemble these words to create their visual poems using the template provided by Mariah

Reflection (5 mins)

Ask students to reflect on their experiences by asking:

- Did you enjoy the exercise? (Why? Why not?)
- Did writing the poem give you any insight into how place, history and family have shaped who you are?
- What emotions do you feel when you think about your relationship to place, history and family identity?