

## **“Wish Poem” – Created by Kenneth Koch**

This is a group poem exercise. Begin by giving each student several strips of paper on which they can compose their individual line of poetry. For the first part of this exercise, the only regulation is to begin with the words “I wish.” Once the students have written their lines, a mentor will collect the strips of paper, and read them aloud, combining them into one group poem. Repeat the exercise several more times, adding more regulations to the lines of poetry as you proceed. For example:

- Line must contain “I wish,” and a color.
- Line must contain “I wish,” and the name of a famous person or character
- Line must contain “I wish,” name of a famous person or character, and the name of a city or country
- Line must contain “I wish,” name of a famous person or character, the name of a city or country, and use alliteration

Projected Time: 20 – 25 minutes (a good warm-up activity)