

Exclusive Ink Exercise (11/27/12) – *Recreating A Poetry Slam* by Allyson Horton and Chris Speckman

The goal of this exercise is to capture the passion and unity of a poetry slam inside Room 238. We will do this in two steps:

1. Divide each students into groups of three to five and have a tutor work with them to create a group slam poem (if any students are against working as a group, work with them on an individual poem that would appeal to a slam crowd). If the students are in need of inspiration, there will be some first lines provided. Remind them that the goal is to pump the audience up. To do so, have them choose at least 5 of the following 12 techniques that will get them to work together and maximize the group output:

- **repeating line for emphasis** (each person will use the same line at different points in their reading)
- **cascading line** (each person adds a word or phrase to complete the same sentence or thought)
- **harmonizing** (more than one person speaking or singing the same line at once)
- **chaos** (all group members saying different things at the same time)
- **choreographed dance move** (everyone at once)
- **group gestures** (each members folds arms, looks at the ground, salutes the crowd, etc. at the same time)
- **acting out** (one or more group members act out the action while somebody speaks)
- **dramatic pause** (one person stops, another person picks it up after a planned pause)
- **argument** (one or more group members start arguing with each other to make a bigger point)
- **beatboxing** (group members lay down a beat while somebody flows)
- **crowd interaction** (group members go to into the crowd to interact while somebody speaks)
- **sound effects** (group members make sound effects while somebody speaks)

2. When the group poems are ready, instead of a normal reading, we will set up a slam reading where the crowd will be allowed to cheer and participate (but not interrupt or disrupt) during the performances. Each group will be assigned another group to score on the following criteria (physical presence, voices, and tone), with a 10 being a perfect score. Because we want to support each other, we will encourage generous scores, and any lower scores **must** be justified with constructive suggestions for improvement.