

Found poetry is a type of poetry **created** by taking words, phrases, and sometimes whole passages **from other sources** and reframing them by making changes in spacing **and** lines, or by adding or deleting text, **thus imparting new meaning**

Writing the Poem

First stage: It would be useful to do some research by reading other writers of found poetry. The work of Edwin Morgan is easy to find and he has written many poems based on other original sources. There are also many sites on the Internet providing examples of found poetry that can be explored for information and ideas.

Second stage: You need to collect a variety of written resources to use as a basis for your found poem. The one example you have seen is based on a Christmas card. Collect some of the following and find other sources:

- magazine advertisements
- greeting cards
- travel brochures
- information leaflets
- instruction manuals
- music reviews
- 'teen' magazine articles/letters

Third stage: Before you write anything, you'll need to decide on the tone and attitude of your poem. Is it going to be serious? Are you going to mock the original content?

When you have selected pages and/or passages from your original text that you think are interesting and appropriate for the mood you have chosen, begin underlining words and sentences that you will want to use in your poem.

Final stage: When writing your found poem, you will need to experiment with where to make line breaks and with line lengths themselves. You might decide to add regular or varying spaces between lines and/or words.

Remember, you are in control of what you do with the lines you have selected (and you may decide to go back to the original text and select more). You can change the places of words in a selected line, and you can repeat individual words or lines as often as you like.

For more ideas and examples, look at the material provided on the 3rd and 4th pages of this resource.