

Slam Poem Topics

1. **Write a letter.** When I was in grade school, the teacher once asked us to write a letter to anyone who is no longer with us. Slam poetry allows me to take that topic even a step further. Try writing a letter to someone who has either passed or is no longer in your life.
2. **I'm sorry.** Think about words and sentiments that are tough for you to say. For me its things like "I'm sorry" and "I love you". Write a slam poem about those words and why it's so hard to get them out - this usually proliferates some deeper issues and can really take you on a journey.
3. **Religion.** This is a difficult one - approach with caution. It doesn't matter if the poem is for or against religion, or if it's about a ramification of a religion - actually, religion can probably lead to a series of poems.
4. **Social Issues.** This topic can cover a wide range of sub-topics such as racism, hunger, economy, government, homosexuality, addiction, birth control/abortion, euthanasia, suicide, poverty. OK, so this slam poetry topic is actually dozens of slam poetry topics - which means you have so much opportunity to expand on this! Here's a piece of advice - try to avoid blanket statements with no personal experience or factual backing. Broad statements like "our government is killing our youth" really don't mean anything. But they will catch attention - so if you use it, back it up!
5. **An incident that shaped you or changed you.** Were you ever bullied? Ever have a conversation where someone spoke just one line that impacted everything you've ever done since? Ever seen a movie that influenced and really impacted the way you live? These are great moments to expand upon in a slam poem.
6. **Love.** The most utilized topic in the history of poetry, yet still to this day a love poem is an art that is marveled upon. What's great about love poems, when done correctly and in spoken word form, is they take the shape and persona of the artist. So its not always gushy - it could be funny, it could be erotic, heck, sometimes its downright raunchy, it also doesn't have to be about *someone*; you can write about how you love *something*.
7. **The Biography.** Pick a person that has been a part of your life. It can be someone as close as family, as distant as a sports superstar, or as instantaneous as a passing stranger. Use the person that's in your head right now. Start your poem with the reasons you thought of that person. Be more abstract. Talk about the influence, talk about why it bubbles within you.

8. **Frustration or Anger.** I know it's just me, but these tend to be my favorites. It gives an opportunity to just go off on something! It could be about sitting in traffic, losing an argument, not being able to prove your innocence, a divorce in the family, someone or something you loathe - the list can go on forever. Whatever you choose to vent on, be sure to hit the analogies and verbs hard in this one - oh, and alliteration goes a long way as well! You'll probably feel a lot better after you write this poem, and each time you perform it a relive the emotion will actually help make you a stronger person.

9. **The Story.** Pick an event in your life, and make it a dramatic one if possible. Get in a fight? Witness a fight or crime? Cut class? Almost die? Car crash? Keep on thinking and see what images come to mind - you can even make one up if it's a topic of interest. What usually happens in that case is your own truth gets tied into it.