

2026 Northern Narratives Poetry Standards

Points	Technical Skill	Sensory Qualities	Voice
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line breaks, typography, and punctuation (or lack thereof) confuse and hinder meaning Many errors in spelling and grammar If in a poetic form, structure is not well executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No attempt at poetics (alliteration, repetition, wordplay, etc.) No attempt at imagery (colors, objects, landscapes, etc.) No evocation of the senses (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) If rhyme and/or meter used, they're not well executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little personality expressed; language is flat and uninteresting Does not evoke emotion or build connection with reader Expression of ideas and perspective dependent on clichés
2			
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line breaks, typography, and punctuation (or lack thereof) sometimes confuse and hinder meaning A few errors in spelling and grammar If in a poetic form, structure is sometimes well executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some attempt at poetics (alliteration, repetition, wordplay, etc.) Some attempt at imagery (colors, objects, landscapes, etc.) Some evocation of the senses (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) If rhyme and/or meter used, they're sometimes well executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some personality expressed through varied language Evokes some emotion and builds tenuous connection with reader Expression of ideas and perspective shows some originality
4			
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line breaks, typography, and punctuation (or lack thereof) mostly support and enhance meaning Good grasp of spelling and grammar If in a poetic form, structure is solidly executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good use of poetics (alliteration, repetition, wordplay, etc.) Good use of imagery (colors, objects, landscapes, etc.) Evocation of the senses (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) If rhyme and/or meter used, they're solidly executed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong personality expressed through varied language Evokes emotion and builds connection with reader Expression of ideas and perspective is mostly original
6			
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Line breaks, typography, and punctuation (or lack thereof) always support and enhance meaning Excellent grasp of spelling and grammar If in a poetic form, poet demonstrates mastery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent use of poetics (alliteration, repetition, wordplay, etc.) Effective use of imagery (colors, objects, landscapes, etc.) Vivid evocation of the senses (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) If rhyme and/or meter used, poet demonstrates mastery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vivid personality expressed through varied and memorable language Evokes deep emotion and builds strong connection with reader Expression of ideas and perspective is unique
8			