## Post-It Poetry

**Recommended grade level:** 4th and up.

**Materials:** pads of Post-It notes, pencils,pieces of poster board or cardboard to use as backing boards

**Instructions**

* Divide students into groups of four or five.
* Invite the group to take a minute to look quietly at the work of art.
* Give each small group a pad of small Post-Its and a backing board.
* Ask students to think of a noun related to the work of art. Have students pass the

Post-It pad around in their group—each group member should write one noun on a Post-It and stick it to the backing board.

* Repeat this process with verbs, adjectives, and, if working with older students, adverbs.
* Have groups trade backing boards. Ask students to, as a group, use the words on the backing boards to create sentences or phrases about the work of art.
* Invite groups to share their creations with the class!

**Cross-curricular activity extensions**

* Studio Art: Distribute large sheets of paper, and have students use words from their Post-It poems to create a concrete poem that takes the shape of the artwork. If using a sculpture as inspiration, encourage students to sketch the artwork from a variety of angles; to discover different shapes for their poems.
* Foreign Language: Challenge students to complete the activity in a foreign language.
* Language Arts: Invite the groups to label the parts of speech used in their poems.

**Question for Reflection**

* Have groups compare poems. Return to the artwork to see if the conversation sparked new observations.

**DMA Artwork Connection**   
Dorothea Tanning (American, b. 1910)  
*Pincushion to Serve as Fetish,*1979   
Black velvet, wood, metal, paint, and copper  
2005.27 h: 46 1/4”, w: 54 1/8”, d: 48 1/4"  
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