



snow city arts  
virtual  
learning

# VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION **VIDEO TRANSCRIPT**

Workshop:

## **My Favorite Color in Five Senses**

Learn how to compose a short poem inspired by your favorite color and five senses using similes and synesthesia. You will also be introduced to artist Nick Cave and poet Author Rimbaud.

Teaching Artist:  
Eric Elshtain

Workshop duration:  
25 - 45 minutes



# Transcript

Hello! My name is Eric. My pronouns are he/him/his. And I am a poet who teaches with Snow City Arts. Thank you for inviting Snow City Arts into your room.

Today, we will work together to compose a short poem.

In this video, you will learn how to compose a short poem, even if you have never written a poem before in your life. All you need is a piece of paper, a pen, a pencil or marker, and your mind. And in this poem, you will talk about all five of your senses: smell, touch or feel, hearing, taste, and sight. This will be a fun way to think about your five senses. In fact, a huge portion of your brain is devoted to your senses.

Here's a diagram that shows how much of your brain is used just for your senses. Notice how much is devoted to touch and to taste specifically. I'm going to ask you five questions about your favorite color. You will write down or have someone else write down your answers. Those answers will become your poem.

First: What's your favorite color?

Mine is green, especially, dark green.

All right. Think of your favorite color and now imagine that you're walking down the street, and you turn a corner, and there in front of you floating in the air is a blob of your favorite color. It seems friendly. So, you walk up to it, you say hello. You lean forward and give it a big sniff. What does your favorite color smell like? Put your answer down like this. And I'll use my favorite color as an example: Dark green smells like pine needles. Pause the video here and after every question to give yourself time to think of and to write down or to have someone else write down your answer.

**[Pause the video to write your answer. Do this after every question.]**

Okay, now you reach out and pinch out a little piece of your favorite color and feel it in your fingers. What does your favorite color feel like? Is it as smooth as glass? As cold as ice? Does it feel like sandpaper? Write down or have someone else write down what your favorite color feels like.

With that pinch in your hand, you hold it up to your ear. Your favorite color is making a sound. What does your favorite color sound like?

# Transcript Continued

And with that same pinch, you give it a taste. So without repeating what your favorite color smells like, what do you think your favorite color would taste like?

You give the rest of that pinch of your favorite color back to your favorite color and that makes your favorite color very happy. And when your favorite color is happy. It takes the form of its favorite shape.

What does your favorite color look like? Now, this could be a simple shape like a square or a triangle or the shape of an object or even an animal. So write down or have someone else write down what your favorite color would look like.

You've written down what your favorite color smells like, feels like, sounds like, tastes like, and looks like, which means you've written a five-line poem about your favorite color. Just like movies and books, poems have titles.

So what do you want to call your poem? Put that title at the top of your paper.

By talking about your favorite color like you've done, you have successfully used three very important techniques in your poem. Images, which are descriptions, based on any of your five senses. **Similes**, that's s-i-m-i-l-e-s, which is when you compare two things using the words like or as, just as you have done in your poem. In fact, we use similes in conversation all the time. Try to notice the next time you use a simile when you're describing something to somebody.

You also use **synesthesia**. That's s-y-n-e-s-t-h-e-s-i-a. That means you have mixed up the senses in some way. Some people experience synesthesia in their lives. Some people can taste numbers or see certain colors when they hear certain sounds.

Other artists like you, use synesthesia in their work. The poet **Arthur Rimbaud** wrote a poem titled "Vowels," in which he described the vowels, a, e, i, o, and u as having odd sounds and colors. For example, the vowel "a" is a black velvety jacket that buzzes like flies. The artist Nick Cave mixes sculpture and sound by creating art that you can wear. He calls these sound suits and makes rock when you move around or dance in them. There are many other ways to use images, similes, and synesthesia in any form of art.

You've done an amazing job today. Thank you for taking the time to work on your poem. Have a great rest of your day.

**If you are interested in receiving school credit**

for the work you have completed in this workshop, or if you would like to have your work **displayed in a Snow City Arts exhibition space or virtual gallery:**

Visit <https://snowcityarts.org/consent-releases/> to learn more.

**Contact us at [programs@snowcityarts.org](mailto:programs@snowcityarts.org)** if you have questions, would like to offer feedback, or would like to continue working with us virtually.



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