

## Protest Poetry Lesson – Poetry by Brian Turner

### "Sadiq"

It should make you shake and sweat,  
nightmare you, strand you in a desert  
of irrevocable desolation, the consequences  
seared into the vein, no matter what adrenaline  
feeds the muscle its courage, no matter  
what god shines down on you, no matter  
what crackling pain and anger  
you carry in your fists, my friend,  
it should break your heart to kill.

Brian Turner (From "Here, Bullet." Copyright ©2005 by Brian Turner. Reprinted with the permission of Alice James Books.)

After viewing the images in Selections from the Collection – War and Conflict, which two photographs do you correlate, connect, or associate with Brian Turner’s Poem, “Sadiq”? Take a photograph of each image on your phone for later reference.

1. Photograph \_\_\_\_\_

2. Photograph \_\_\_\_\_

How do you think the words in the poem connect to the images?  
Be specific about how each image relates to the poem.

Photograph 1

Photograph 2

## Protest Poetry

“Poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence. It forms the quality of the light within which we predicate our hopes and dreams toward survival and change, first made into language, then into idea, then into more tangible action. Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought. The farthest horizons of our hopes and fears are cobbled by our poems, carved from the rock experiences of our daily lives.”

Audre Lorde

Protest poetry is any form of poetry which has, as one of its main functions, the objective of finding fault with some existing current event or circumstance.

<https://www.languagehumanities.org/what-is-protest-poetry.html>

### 1. Protest Poetry: Brainstorm Words the Photographs Inspire

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### 2. Protest Poetry: Organizing Your Thoughts

What is the subject of your protest?	What questions do you need answered?
How can your words make a difference?	Why is this subject important to you?

**A Free Verse Poem** – This type of poem does not need to rhyme or take a particular form. It relies heavily on descriptions, verbs, adjectives, similes, and metaphors.

### 3. Protest Poetry: Organizing Your Free Verse Protest Poem

Describe the subject of your protest. What images come into focus?	List the adjectives that describe the images.
List the verbs that describe the images.	List your feelings about the images.
Provide a simile that relates to the subject of your protest.	Provide a metaphor that relates to the subject of your protest.

**Use the Space below to Create your Free Verse Protest Poem**

Review your responses in boxes 1, 2 and 3 and create your poem