**Self-Assessment I**

The purpose of the self-assessments is to periodically evaluate your intellectual and creative growth. Since this is the first one, the main focus will be on establishing your perceived strengths and weaknesses, existing skill level, and creative and intellectual goals. This assessment can be written informally—it can be conversational or funny—as long as it meets the criteria.

The order in which you address the following topics does not matter, but please make sure to provide a thoughtful answer to each. Be honest. These aren’t trick questions and there is no right or wrong answer. If you’ve never read poetry, never liked poetry, and expect to hate poetry tell me why.

1. Assess your interest in, and ability to read, poetry. Do you read poetry regularly? If you do, what do you read? If you don’t, why not? Do you feel confident that you can read a poem and understand it?
2. Assess your interest in, and ability to write, poetry. If you write poetry, do you have a style you’re comfortable with? Are there new techniques you’d like to learn? If you’re new to writing poetry, why are you doing it now? Are you excited to try your hand at writing poems? Apprehensive? A little of both?
3. What do you think a poem “is” or “should accomplish”?
4. What are you most apprehensive about in this course?
5. Set some goals for yourself. What do you want to learn in this course? How would you define a successful semester?