

WRITE YOUR OWN POEM

1. Select five words or phrases that stick out to you from one of the poems by Latino poets on our web page or in this Poetic Manifesto by Francisco X. Alarcón.
2. Write down something that happened this week, it could be a meal, a walk, a conversation, a moment in your house, and add in a feeling you have about it (happy, sad, mad, scared) you want to highlight.
3. Take the selected words/phrases from the poem, the moment from this week and the feeling you identified, and make a poem that describes this moment, so others can see the detailed picture of your world.

*each poem
is and act of faith*

*In the power
of the Word*

*a flower passed
hand to hand*

*and rooted
In the heart*

*a prayer/chant
lighting the night*

*a song amid
so much noise*

*a murmur
of tree branches*

*At the very edge
of the big desert*

*breaking down
the borders of despair*

*sowing the seeds
of renewed hope*

*each poem is
a call for action*

*is saying "yes"
to the rule of "no"*

*a defiance
to social silence*

*building trust
in response to fear*

*a testimony
of the human soul*

*recognizing
that in spite of all*

*our differences
and particularities*

*we all breathe
love and dream*

*celebrate and suffer
under the same on Sun*

- Francisco X. Alarcón, Poetic Manifesto

