



## South Carolina Academic/Career Development Integration Activity (DRAFT)

**Title**                **Cinquain Poem (ELA-2)**  
**Subject**           **English/Language Arts**

**Grade Level(s)**    **6-8**

**SC Content Standard** – Writing Goal. The student will write for different audiences and purposes. W1 The student will apply a **process approach** to writing.

8-W1.6. Demonstrate the ability to write and publish in a variety of formats.

### **National Career Development Guidelines Goal/Indicator**

Personal Social Development GOAL PS1. Develop understanding of yourself to build and maintain a positive self-concept.

Indicator PS1.K2. Identify your abilities, strengths, skills, and talents.

Indicator PS1. K3. Identify your positive personal characteristics (e.g., honesty, dependability, responsibility, integrity, and loyalty).

### **Career Development Objectives**

1. Students will identify several strengths and positive personal qualities.
2. Students will describe how their strengths and positive personal qualities contribute to their success in school.

### **Assessment**

1. Students will write a cinquain poem about their strengths and positive personal qualities.
2. Students will write a multiple paragraph composition describing how some of their strengths and positive personal qualities contribute to their success in school.

### **Preparation**

- Prior Learning—Writing process instruction
- Handouts/Worksheets—*Skills for a Lifetime* handout, *Cinquain Poem* worksheet
- Resources/Materials—writing materials
- Time Required—45 minutes for cinquain activity, 30 minutes for students to share their skills for success, home assignment (composition)

## **Procedures**

### **Part One (45 minutes)**

- This activity expands students' awareness of a variety of skills they now have. They will create a cinquain poem that celebrates their uniqueness and promotes their self-esteem.
- Open discussion with how each of us is unique and has special abilities, skills, and qualities. Point out that these qualities are what make us successful in our personal lives and relationships with others, as well as in school and eventually on the job.
  - Have the students brainstorm a list of positive adjectives that describe members of the class. Write these adjectives on the board.
- Have students work in pairs to compile a list of each other's qualities, skills, and abilities. Mention to students that recognizing our own best points is not the same as "bragging." It is simply another way of describing ourselves and understanding who we are.
- Tell students to select words from the list to write a cinquain poem about themselves using the following formula:

### **Cinquain Poem**

Line 1: Write your name.

Line 2: Write two adjectives that describe you.

Line 3: Write three words ending with "-ing" or "ed" (action words) that describe how you act or what you are good at doing.

Line 4: Write a phrase that describes you.

Line 5: Write a synonym of the word on Line 1.

### **Example**

Sarah

Energetic, honest

Caring, running, helping

A very fast runner

Friend

### **Part Two—Career Development Connections (30 minutes plus home assignment)**

- Invite any students who want to read their poem to the class.
- As students read their poems, point out that the skills, qualities, and abilities they listed about themselves are valuable in all aspects of their lives, including in school and at work.
- Use the *Skills for a Lifetime* handout to introduce students to skills for school and career success.
- Have students review their cinquain poems once again to look for specific success skills they might have included. Ask students to share with the class some of the specific success skills they now possess.
- Have students write a multiple paragraph composition describing how at least two of their strengths and positive personal qualities contribute to their success in school.
- Optional: use the cinquain as an artifact in the student's career portfolio.

**Crosswalks****SC Career Guidance Standard/Competency**

Learning to Work Standard 1. Students will understand the relationship among personal qualities, education, training and the world of work.

Competency 1.4. Explain the relationship between personal qualities, school success, life style and career choices.

**Key Employability Skills**

Communication Skills—Writing

Creative Thinking—Generates new ideas

Self-Esteem—Believes in own self-worth and maintains a positive view of self

\* Adapted from *North Dakota Career Development Implementation Tool Kit Grade 8*, North Dakota Career Resource Network, 2000. Used with permission.

## WRITING A CINQUAIN POEM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Write a cinquain poem that describes who you are, how you act, and what you are good at doing.

### Follow this formula:

Line 1: Write your name.

Line 2: Write two adjectives that describe you.

Line 3: Write three words ending with "-ing" or "ed" (action words) that describe how you act or what you are good at doing.

Line 4: Write a phrase that describes you.

Line 5: Write a synonym of the word on Line 1.

### Example

Sarah

Energetic, honest

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