



This writing prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Jamaal May](#) and [David Yezzi](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Writing Prompt

Watch Jamaal May's video poem, "[I Do Have a Seam](#)," from Organic Weapon Arts. Reflect on what the video dimension adds to the poem ([found, as a text, here](#)).

Now, make your own video poem. Using a phone-camera, computer software, or the equipment and resources of your institution's library/technology center, create a multimedia video that you believe communicates the performance of your poem verbally as well as visually.

As you work, you might consider some of these thoughts from Jamaal May on the process of making a video poem:

This will include videos like what we have up already that focus primarily on a reading of the poem by the author. Other videos will be more video art in approach, which will try to offer different sensory experiences than watching the poet. Playing with incongruence and association between what is seen and heard is something I really hope I can pull off without the video being distracting. In all of the videos my aim is annotate the poem rather than supplement or supplant it. That means I steer away from extremely literal imagery as best I can as well as visuals that turn the poem into background noise (though poems as background is something I'm interested in getting into in future work). I'm not sure my approaches can enhance a poem, so I think of it more as offering another experience.