



This writing prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Tarfia Faizullah](#) and [Phillip B. Williams](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Writing Prompt (courtesy of Phillip B. Williams)

One that I do with my students in groups of 3-4 is for them to create their own forms. Surely this can be done alone. I suggest first reading poems that are in form, many of which can be found in Eavan Boland's and Mark Strand's anthology *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms*. Study the rules of the poems included there and practice writing the forms.

Whenever you are comfortable, try to create your own form. Give it a name and give it rules. How does the name reflect the rules of the poem? What form does the poem take on the page? What are the formal devices (rhyme, repetition, elision)? What do the rules suggest are the reasons for the form to exist (love poem, angst poem, poem about an obsession)?

Not a prompt as much as it is a long-term assignment.