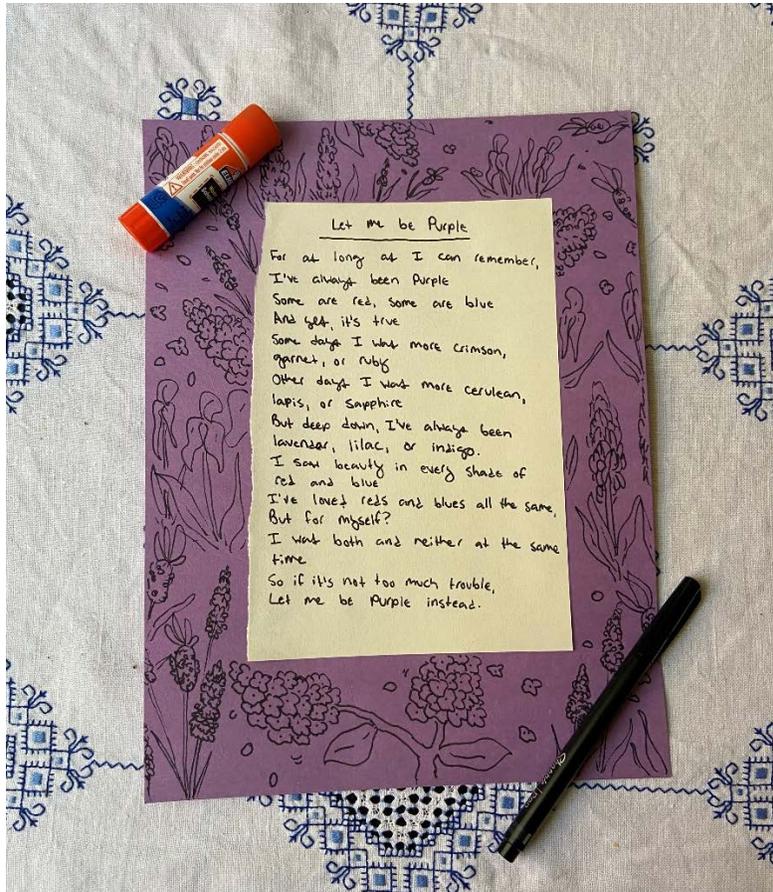


Family First Sundays: Pride Month Poetry

June 6 at 11am PST

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Welcome back to the Family First Sunday with UCR ARTS. Today is very special because we have officially kicked off Pride Month! Pride is an event where the LGBTQ+ Community comes together to celebrate their identities. Historically, pride was a protest sparked by trans women activists such as Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, together they rallied members of the community to push back against police brutality and the suppression of their identities. Pride was born from activism and remains an important part of the queer community.

Queer poetry has a long history, the earliest examples dating back to ancient Greek poet Sappho and the Renaissance artist Michelangelo. There are also famous examples in a few of Shakespeare's sonnets and Emily Dickenson's work as well. Marsha P. Johnson herself took to poetry to talk about her experiences as a Black trans woman. Her poem "Soul" was one of her more famous works that advocated for queer people, she often reminded her audience that the division between queer and straight "doesn't really matter if you ain't got soul".

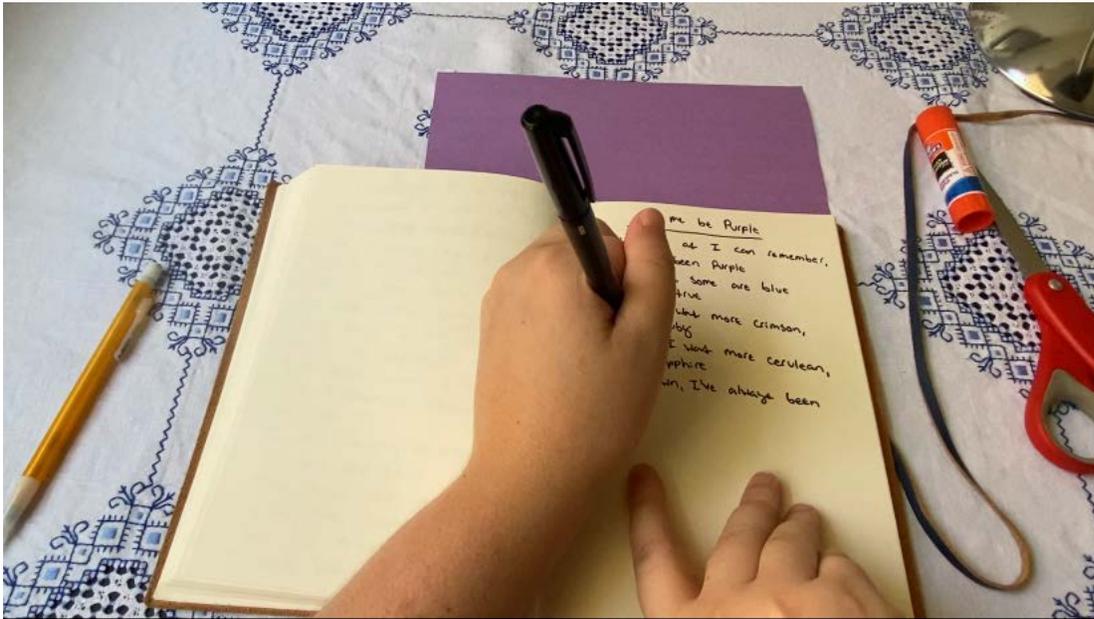
Today's activity focuses on poetry and identity. This project is very dear to me as I have personally struggled to openly express my identity as a nonbinary bisexual over the years. For a long time, I knew I was different but didn't know how or why. I couldn't express why I felt this way until very recently. That's why today I want to use poetry, an artistic medium used by many queer activists, to express ourselves. Search deep inside and let your true colors shine with our Pride Poetry Project!

Here are some instructions for the Pride Poetry Project:

Step 1: Look deep within yourself and focus on your identity—ask yourself, who am I?

Step 2: Once you figure out who you are, think about what about yourself makes you feel proud or thoughtful. Write down some phrases or draw some pictures that come to mind. Try to identify any colors that describe you.

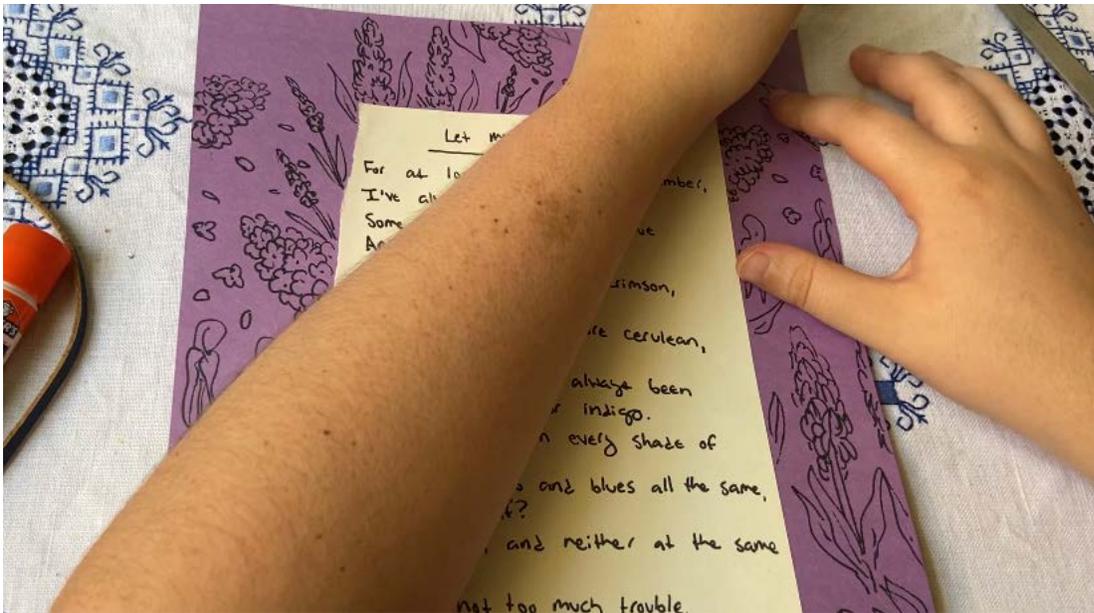
Step 3: Take a blank white sheet of paper and write a poem about yourself using imagery like colors. I personally chose the color purple to talk about my queer identity. You can try different poetry styles like Haiku, Anachronistic, or Free Style.



Step 4: Cut out your poem and paste it onto the color or colors that you chose for yourself. Ex: My poem is about being purple, so I put my poem on a purple sheet of paper!



Step 5: Decorate with any personal pictures and/or symbols



Step 6: Step back and admire your Pride Poem, feel free to read this poem aloud to friends and family!

