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Found Poetry Project Process Reflection

Word Count: 441/A level

I selected my source texts by skimming through random books, newspapers, and articles to see if anything jumped out at me that would be promising. My process was to skim through writing and see if any pages looked promising. If they did, I would cut them out or copy them depending on the source, then go through the pages and find words or phrases that stuck out to me and mark them. Once I had a starting point, I would go though and try to find other words or phrases that fit with what I already had, removing words if I found something better, or found that I couldn't make the poem work. After I had a poem completed, I would go through it again to see if it needed to be adjusted before finalizing it. If I couldn't make a page work, I would just set it aside and tried a new source. On some of my poems I tried to tell a story with what I was selecting, while in others I simply selected words that I thought worked to create a poem.

I had a somewhat rough time choosing words, as poetry isn't my strength. For some of my poems I ended up making them somewhat edgy, as I found this amusing, and this made it easier to compose them for me. On one of my blackout poems I highlighted the words that I did not black out because I had crossed out parts of words, and when I re-read it, I had difficulty telling what was crossed out and what wasn't, and I thought that it would be even more confusing for someone who had not written the poem.

I also struggled with making the text that I had fit with the ideas that I had. I would start off with an idea of where I wanted my poem to go, but because I was reliant on what was already written, that was sometimes impossible, although I was able to adapt my ideas some of the time. I found that "The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy" trilogy worked well for finding material to compose with. I think that Adams mix of seriousness and absurdity lent itself well to finding a good mix of words and phrases to compose with.

My poem-inspired writing went as I expected it to. It started out somewhat strong, but I struggled with ending it, and I am not happy with what I have for the ending. This is fairly typical of my freewriting, but I do think I could improve what I have written if I return to it in the future.