

## “Ode to Spell Checker” Assignment

Critical Thinking and proof reading are two skills that are needed for lifelong learning. For this assignment, you are going to take a poem or song lyrics and change them based on the example of “Ode to a Spell Checker” poem.

Search online for “Ode to the Spell Checker” and read through the poem aloud. You will see that even though the spelling of the words is different, if you were to “translate” this into correct grammar, the sound of the poem wouldn’t change.

Your challenge is to change a poem or song lyrics so that the Spell Checker of a program wouldn’t pick up any spelling errors, but you aren’t exactly using the correct grammatical words for the situation; you are using a different word(s) that *sounds* like the original word you are trying to replace.

1. Find a poem or song lyrics (minimum of 14 lines)
2. Copy it into a word processing software (Word, Google Docs, Pages, etc).
3. Now, change at least half of the words so that they sound like the original word, but are not the original words.
  - a. When you take a look at the original poem, they broke up words to get the same sounds
    - i. “Miss steaks” for mistakes
    - ii. “a weigh” for away
    - iii. “mist ache” for mistake
  - b. You can open contractions (can’t, won’t, don’t, we’ll, etc) to help with phonetic sounds.
  - c. Do not use “text speak” in your changes. (i.e. you → u, because → b/c, are → r). These type of changes are not allowed.
  - d. Use true English words. Names are okay, but use them sparingly.
4. Refer back to “Ode to a Spell Checker” poem if you get stuck.
5. Print and turn in when finished.

It is a harder project, but it is doable. Read things out loud, listen to how things sound. See if an alternative spelling for the word works (to, too, two; their, there, they’re).

One goal is to trick the spell checker into thinking that everything is correct. You may not be able to trick the grammar check, but the spell checker should think that everything is correct.