

# I want to be a . . . Poet

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## Initial Career Steps:

- Write down your poems (or words/phrases that may eventually turn into a poem) in a journal and carry it with you. This will allow you to constantly reflect upon and improve your craft.
- Attending open mics or poetry readings can help you develop your own voice as a poet; you may feel inspired or you may be alerted to certain things you'd like to avoid in your own work.
- Aside from reading poetry anthologies and literary journals, it will benefit you to learn more about various poetic forms, meters, and genres; becoming knowledgeable about the possibilities may help you find your own niche.
- Submit your work to local poetry organizations, contests or magazines, or self-publish your work in a chapbook.
- Carry your poems with you and share with others. Get to know other poets in your neighborhood and always ask for creative feedback.

## Local Resources:



--The Poetry Kit:  
<http://www.poetrykit.org>

--Poetry Society of Texas:  
<http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/>

--Austin Poetry Society:  
<http://austinpoetrysociety.org/>

Academy of American Poets- Texas Page:  
[www.poets.org/TX/](http://www.poets.org/TX/)