



when I began to keep my writing simple – I pivoted away from the metaphors, and began to write plainly about how I felt.

Surprisingly, writing in French forced me to scrape away the excess emotion and dive into the center of what I was really feeling. Finding rhymes, idioms, and wordplay to maintain the spirit of a slam poem still took time, but the process became much easier when I stopped trying to overcomplicate my writing.

So, whether or not I fully succeeded in remaining faithful to the tenets of slam poetry, the included poem, “Je dis ça, je dis rien” achieved what I aimed to do from the beginning. By the time I finished my poem, I had begun to understand my emotions surrounding my identity better than I had before, which is exactly what I had hoped to explore with this piece.

- Lillian Keith