

## Proposal

**Title** – “Flight” and “Time of Light”: The Impact of Poetry Sequences on Author and Audience

**Program of Study** – English

**Presentation Type** –Physical Poster

**Subtype** – Creative and Artistic.

**Mentor(s) and Mentor Email** - Professor Alexander Grant (agrant7@liberty.edu)

**Student name(s) and email(s)** - Sarah Jackson (sjackson81@liberty.edu) Rebecca Pickard (rpickard1@liberty.edu)

**Abstract:** This project examines the poetic processes involved in writing and performing a poetry sequence, as well as the impact this form of poetry has on the author and audience. While a single poem can express one thought concisely and artfully, a poetry sequence (a series of poems that follows one overarching theme or idea) can explore one thought in greater depth. The goal of our research was to explore how the creation, presentation, and impact of a poetry sequence differs from that of a single poem. We analyzed poetry collections to see how professional poets, such as Kaveh Akbar and Heather Christle, incorporated repetition, movement between themes, and order of content to increase the impact of their work. After researching the form, we each composed a sequence based on an original poem whose questions prompted further exploration. We then met with focus groups of both poets and non-poets to receive feedback on the effectiveness of our sequences. Finally, we tested our methods by hosting a public reading of our sequences. Final revisions and edits were directed toward oral presentation, and we researched spoken word performances as well as the details of hosting such an event. In our performance, we experienced the impact of extended poetry both on ourselves

and our audience. The sequences forced us as poets to view each poem as part of the whole, rather than individual works. For the audience, a performed sequence required them to engage with the poetry for a longer period of time. Several audience members stated that they left our reading with a new appreciation of poetry. In addition, our presentation prompted several students to write and perform sequences in the spring semester, encouraging poets to further the arts within the communities of Liberty and Lynchburg.