# Introduction to Poetry Writing: The Default Path

In this class, you have almost unlimited flexibility in how you will pursue an A. In most cases, students enjoy this flexibility, but in others, it’s a little bit paralyzing. To that end, here are some useful guidelines on how you can improve your performance in the class.

If you don’t know anything about poetry and you want to get an A, here’s a guide to moving through the class. It’s based on the achievements most commonly sought by students who got an A in the course. I’ve also paced them so that you aren’t doing all the work at the end of the term.

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| **Week** | **By the end of the week, you should have this many points** | **You should submit these achievements** | **You should be working on these achievements (which culminate later)** |
| **1** | 30 | Exemplary Poem  Explained It  One Request |  |
| **2** | 140 | Tense Shoulders  Office Hours  One Post Accepted | New Poems!  I’ll Tumbl For Ya  Six Posts Accepted |
| **3** | 205 | Metaphor Master  A-simile-ate  Dogged Pursuit  Meme | New Poems!  I’ll Tumbl For Ya  Six Posts Accepted |
| **4** | 285 | Concrete Image Commander  You, You, You  Epistle | New Poems!  I’ll Tumbl For Ya  Six Posts Accepted |
| **5** | 350 | Rhyme Recognition  Sonnet Surveyor  Lie | New Poems!  I’ll Tumbl For Ya  Six Posts Accepted  Four-malist |
| **6** | 650 | Metrical Maestro  Three Posts Accepted | New Poems!  I’ll Tumbl For Ya  Six Posts Accepted  Four-malist |
| **7** | 700 | Terza Rima Tycoon  Revise Into Form  Significant Revision | New Poems!  I’ll Tumbl For Ya  Six Posts Accepted  Four-malist |
| **8** | 750 | Ghazal Guru  I’ll Tumbl For Ya | New Poems!  Six Posts Accepted  Four-malist |
| **9** | 1250 | Six Posts Accepted  Four-malist | New Poems!  Chapbook |
| **10-end** | 1700 | New Poems!  Chapbook |  |

It’s worthwhile to note that many of the achievements require sustained commitment. Achievements with the largest point values generally require 3-8 weeks of steady work, and doing a few of these is actually the easiest (and, according to most students, the most enjoyable) way of getting an A. But that means that at the mid-term, you won’t have earned half the points needed to get an A. If that causes you stress, you’ll want to consider other paths.