

## Write about Your Capitol

Now that students have visited the Mississippi State Capitol, have them write a poem, flash fiction, or haiku about the Capitol. They can refer to their tour, something they learned about the Capitol, their experience there, or make up a historical event.

Poems can have meter or be blank verse. Flash fiction should be 100-200 words. Haikus should be 3 lines with the first and last being 5 syllables and the middle line being 7 syllables.

For example:

Poem:

*I went to the Capitol today,  
It was a lovely day in May.  
I saw marble and lots of stairs,  
And watched the Senate and House's affairs.  
We learned about how the Capitol was built,  
And saw the eagle, gold with gilt.*

Flash fiction:

*On a visit to the Mississippi State Capitol, our class took a tour. Then, suddenly, we heard the flapping of wings. Looking around, we couldn't see anything. Then, my best friend pointed up and shouted "Look!"*

*Everyone tilted their heads towards the big, blue dome. There perched on Lady Justice's head was a mockingbird. She looked down at us from on high as though the Capitol was hers to claim. Well, it is Mississippi's building, and as our state bird, she probably felt like she belonged.*

*The Capitol staff disagreed with her. Birds belonged in nature, not amongst marble and stone. They had a man in a blue shirt get into a lift. As the mechanical motor of the lift whirred, the mockingbird patiently awaited the man's arrival. Or so we thought.*

*Just as he reached her, she flew off. The chase was on. She flew through the corridors, sending everyone in a tizzy. She hid in pediments, mocking everyone with her song. More staff in blue shirts gathered around in front of the Senate where she hid.*

*They shooed her away, but any attempts to catch her failed.  
The Capitol was her home now. She wouldn't be driven out.*

Haiku:

*The Capitol, wow.  
A beautiful sight to see.  
A historic place.*