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### About the Residency

The Performance Art of Spoken Word residency is a flexible model with the following objectives: 1) Educating students about Hip-Hop poetics and culture. 2) Encouraging students to constructively criticize and analyze the language and images they are bombarded with via modern media. 3) Offering students a unique opportunity to perform free verse poems with an emphasis on their individual experiences and opinions.

They will write original poetry, style-write it for performance, learn a variety of theatre and performance skills, and conduct a “coffeehouse” style open MIC for their peers. Students will enhance their development of writing skills, their confidence in self-expression, and their vocal skills, as well as receive Frank’s lifetime of knowledge about Hip-Hop and Rap music.

### About Frank Sentwali

Frank Sentwali Gardner was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. He began writing raps and immersing himself in hip-hop at age 11. Frank is the creator of Edu-Poetic Enterbrainment, a Twin Cities’ spoken word and music ensemble. Edupoetic Enterbrainment has played two tours of the Pacific Northwest and produced three full length CDs. They have been nominated for the Minnesota Music Awards three times in two different categories. Frank has spent years in the education system as a tutor, teacher and mentor. He currently co-facilitates S.E.E.D. (Sentwali Entertainment Education Division), presenting programs in schools and community centers.

# Family Participation Guide

*COMPAS presents:*

Spoken Word  
with Frank Sentwali

### Vocabulary

**Hip-hop:** an urban culture of art, dance, dress, music, language and style that evolved from New York City in the 1970’s to become a world youth culture phenomenon

**B-boy / B-girl:** one who practices all of the three fundamental elements of hip-hop: DJ-ing, break dancing (a dance form of the martial art Capoiara), and tagging (graffiti)

**“Slam” Poetry:** a style of spoken word that is in a competition format

### Suggested family discussion questions

What is Hip-Hop? Discuss the kinds of music, dance and poetry that you think are a part of Hip-Hop.

What is your poem about?

What did you like best about Frank’s visit?



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