

Here, three ninth graders worked on the **idea development** and **voice** writing traits while they wrote--then revised--these poems about changing the world. Read each poem, then work with a partner to determine each poet's best example of idea development and voice in these final drafts.

Responsibility

by Amanda, 9th grade poet



Racism is everywhere around.
You see it in color, religion,
And on every street in the
ground.
You say you want to help.
You say you want peace.
Then when it's right in your face
You turn the other cheek.
They say people get better,
That people will change.
Well, racism will always be here
And that will always stay the same.
There's nothing we can do but hope
And pray for the best.
If we have the ability to change,
Then we have the responsibility to change,
Like a wise person once said.

All You Have to Do...

by Christina, 9th grade poet



All you have to do to change
the world
Is just to change a heart,
To comfort someone in need
When they're falling apart.
Though I accept there are things
That I cannot change,
I'll take pride in knowing
That I've made someone's day.
A smile is my shield
And a "Hello!" is my weapon
To a war against the darkest days
That falls upon my friends.

**How Will WE!! Change
the World?**

by Nathan, 9th grade poet



To Change the World
We need to group together.
It's like a bird, cold,
Trying to keep warm with one
feather.
We need to clench hands
And make peace with each other.
Treat every man
Like he is your own brother.
We need to take look
At our planet in a swirl,
And think twice
How will WE!! change the world?

The lesson that inspired this poetry was found online at the WritingFix Website:
http://www.writingfix.com/I_Pod_Prompts/With_Own_2_Hands1.htm