**Portrait Poem**

Poetry deals with the emotions, just as music does. An autobiographical poem is personal—it reveals something about the person writing the poem. It does not have to rhyme. Below is a simple plan to write your own autobiographical poem. Just follow the steps and—before you know it—it’s done.  
  
 **Just Because... Brainstorm a list of groups you fit into**

Just because I'm   
Doesn't mean   
Doesn't mean   
And doesn't mean   
Just because   
Doesn't mean   
Doesn't mean   
Doesn't mean   
Just because   
Doesn't mean   
Doesn't mean   
Doesn't mean   
Just because   
(Question)  
(Question)  
(Question)  
(Statement)

**Portrait Poem Examples**

**#1**

Just because I'm Indian,  
Doesn't mean I work at seven-eleven,  
Doesn't mean I have an accent,  
And doesn't mean I wear a dot on my forehead.  
Just because I'm Indian,  
Doesn't mean I'm poor,  
Doesn't mean there are cows roaming down my street,  
And beggars in front of my door.  
Just because I'm Indian,  
Doesn't mean I'm unsanitary,  
Doesn't mean I'm anorexic,  
And looking for a cure.  
Just because I'm Indian,  
Why should anyone care?  
What is the difference?  
What is life without variety?  
Just because I'm Indian.

**#2**

Just because I’m a teacher

Doesn’t mean I like to grade papers

Doesn’t mean I like textbooks

And doesn’t mean I don’t work in the summer

Just because I’m a woman

Doesn’t mean I don’t like to watch football

Doesn’t mean I can’t fix clogged drains

And doesn’t mean I like to sew, knit, and crochet

Just because I’m middle-aged

Doesn’t mean I’m not tech-savvy #OlderIsBetter

Doesn’t mean I can’t learn to text with my thumbs (jk)

And doesn’t mean I can’t get down to “Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)”

Are teachers misunderstood?

Does gender define you?

Does older mean “over-the-hill”?

Just because I’m a teacher, a woman, and middle-aged