

At this time the public needs accuracy, reliability, and unwavering truth. Here's a "found" poem (a kind of aural erasure poem) I created a few days ago while listening to the president speak to the White House press corps. Radio on and half-dressed, I stopped and took notes—not on the content of his remarks, but on his language, specific words he has used unrelentingly in all his off-the-cuff public remarks since he took office. Without much work my notes became this found poem, language exposing the man the way a child reveals the true condition of the emperor in the famous children's fairy tale. As you know, Trump put Mike Pence in charge of the administration's response to the coronavirus as soon as it became clear that danger was ahead. You don't need me to suggest why the president did this, nor what Pence's words reveal in section 2 of the poem.

Andrea Hollander

In Their Own Words (A Found Poem)

*White House Press Conference on COVID-19
March 19, 2020*

1. Important Words from Our President

Tremendous Incredible Fantastic
Terrific Great
Very Very very big
Very effective
Very exciting
No one has seen anything like it
Like nobody has ever done before
Like no other president has ever done before
Better than ever before
Unthinkable before
Really really good
Beyond great
An incredible success under my administration
No one before has ever
Very powerful Very very powerful
Tremendous
Tremendous promise
I think it's gonna be great
Very good
Very good result
It's going to be very exciting
Could be a tremendous breakthrough
Tremendous breakthrough
A tremendous spirit in this country
A great spirit here
Never been anything like this in history
Nobody's ever seen anything like this
No other countries are doing what I did
No one has ever heard of this done before
One of the things I'm most proud of most proud of
Very very proud Very proud
Very complex
Very very complex
Never been done before
I really can't say right now
I really can't say
Very very soon
I really can't say

2. The Vice President Takes the Mic

As the president says
Yesterday the president
Tomorrow the president
This morning the president
The president has given
The president visited
The president approved
The president and I are confident
At the president's direction
At the president's request
At the president's
The president
The president