Introduction: This past week I had a writing session with the students in my Structural Inequity, Advocacy, and Justice Pathway in the medical school. I asked the students for some short writing -- 6-word stories, haiku, 55-word stories, and poetry. I share some of them below. I also share with you some of their sentiments about having time to reflect and write.

I used to write much more often (prior to med school), so I really enjoyed this session (Matthew Hudson UMass Chan ’26)

This session reminded me why I chose an English major during college! (Elizabeth Waltman UMass Chan ’26)

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect creatively about meaningful medical experiences. I wrote these haikus about some experiences I had in LPP and hospital sessions and wanted to share them with you. The last one I wrote about my grandmother who has since passed from a late detection of cancer she had been complaining about for a while before being diagnosed*. Thanks again, this session really helped me today. I had no idea how nice it would be to take a break from being strictly clinical. (Liana Brooks UMass Chan ’26)
FMM Haikus

By Liana Brooks, Matthew Hudson and Elizabeth Waltman

Liana Brooks:
The doctor stands in way
Of death and my husband, I
Wished he was taller

A student asked for my
Grandchild’s name, I remembered
I was still alive

I tell them my child
Loves red, I hope this will make
Them want to save him

The doctor said there was
Nothing wrong with me, but Pain
Refused to listen

I was diagnosed
With drug seeking, I tell them
I hide and drugs find

*She wears her pearls to
The doctors, she hopes they make
Her voice sound louder

Matthew Hudson:
Six word story:
Late cigarette tax: Dad’s coughing blood.

Haiku (non-medical):
Murky rainwater
Oil-slicked and flecked with leaves
Still reflects the moon

Elizabeth Waltman:
Footcare Clinic
Tending to his feet,
ravaged by life on the street.
Not enough. A start.
Keywords: doctor-patient relationship, communication, oncology, haiku, 6-word story