

Poetry Essay Guidelines

___10	Intro/thesis
___10	Development & support
___10	Analysis, understanding of prompt, usage of academic vocabulary
___10	Organization
___10	Conventions (Correct MLA & Grammar)
___50	Total

How to Write a Poetry Analysis!

In "Poem name here," (add more if necessary) Peter McPoet (add more if necessary) discuss/reveal/illustrate theme or message. Give background and insights about era that you know from prior knowledge, info in the book, or things the teacher said. You are going to argue how the poet(s) communicate that message with their words and form. Cite specific words, word choices, diction/style, figurative language, or form that emphasizes certain words or phrases to show how the poet evokes a response from the reader. What tone does all of this create? You are basically dismantling the whole piece of art and describing its working parts while proving your original thesis point(s). This particular essay will span several paragraphs because you have several poems from which you should be referencing.

Other hints: Use power verbs for good academic vocabulary, use high-school-level tone words (avoid happy/sad), discuss how the poet intends to evoke feelings from the reader, consider how the poet's diction (overall word choice) creates a certain tone or mood, consider universal themes that many readers could relate to, transition between main points.

Prompt: Write an MLA style essay of at least 700 words. Analyze how the poets we studied in class convey their messages through word choice and figurative language. Connect the overall similar themes of the poems, but be sure to specifically interpret the individual message of each as well in the body of the essay.