POETRY ESSAY & PRESENTATION| Core A Composition & Literature

POEM & ANALYSIS Due 4/15 – Choose a poem for your essay topic. Submit 1 paragraph summary on poem’s meaning, including a copy of the poem.

OUTLINE & ESSAY Due 4/29 – Complete entire Five Paragraph Outline and write your essay. Once a parent has proofread your draft, make revisions and turn in final draft. Students MUST include a copy of their poem and Work(s) Cited page with their final draft.

PRESENTATIONS Due 5/8 – Students will use their essay to create a presentation delivered in class.

For this project, you are going to write a five-paragraph essay on a poem of your choice and then turn that essay into a presentation which you will give to the class. Your essay will not be a mere paraphrase of the poem - instead, it should discuss -

A. What kind of poem it is and how it exemplifies the characteristics of that form
B. What poetic devices the poem uses and their purpose/effect in the poem
C. What the poem is saying (its message, theme, and worldview) and how the form and poetic devices help support/create that meaning.

STEP 1: Choose which poem you will discuss - choose from 100 Best Loved Poems or any poem approved by your tutor.

STEP 2: Analyze that poem in depth. Read it many, many times, figure out if it has a rhyme scheme and meter, and mark all the poetic devices you can find. Then write a one paragraph paraphrase of the poem to be sure that you understand its meaning and message.

STEP 3: Develop your thesis based on answers to the prompts above. Then, complete an outline of your essay using the Five Paragraph Essay Outline. This MUST be turned in with your final essay. In this case, as with your literary analysis, the majority of your examples and explanations for your body paragraphs will be words, phrases, and lines from the poem.

STEP 4: Write your draft. Don’t forget that your body paragraphs should be organized by the order of the prongs in your thesis. Also, each paragraph should incorporate evidence based on your analysis of the poem. Finally, don’t forget to guide your reader through your thought-process with the inclusion of transitions between sentences and paragraphs.

STEP 5: Before you submit your final draft, have a parent read through your draft and make revisions based on their comments. This assignment sheet must be signed and submitted with the student’s essay.

I have read through a draft of my student’s essay and given them appropriate feedback for potential revisions.

____________________________________________________ _______________________
Parent signature Date

**See page 2 for checklists and presentation info***
Poetry Essay Checklist

- Include the title and author of work in the introduction.
- Refer to the author by last name only, except the first time you say his or her name in the introduction.
- Your thesis statement answers some or all of the questions in the prompt.
- Each body paragraph includes a topic and clincher sentence that falls under the umbrella of the thesis, and appropriate transitions.
- Use present tense verbs when discussing events that take place in the poem.
- Commentary must be more than a summary of the poem. Instead, it must analyze form and meaning.
- Introduce the quotation properly and only quote the words you need. (Don’t make your quotes longer than they need to be.)
- Punctuate your quote correctly: “~~~~~~~~~~ / ~~~~~~~~~” (9). Poetry in-text citations do not require a page number, but a line number. When you begin to quote a new line, indicate where the line break occurs by using a “/”.
- Proper use of quotes - student explains how the quote supports assertions
- Limit of 2 “be” verbs per paragraph, including helping verbs
- No “I” or “you” or “me” or “my” etc. Personal experience should not be included.
- No contractions.
- Use MLA format.
- Include a Works Cited page for the text
- Submit signed assignment sheet & outline with final draft of essay
- Submit each step (except the written outline) to Turnitin

STEP 6: After you have written your essay, turn it into a speech. You will be allowed one note card per paragraph. Practice your speech at least two times using the following techniques:

- Make eye contact with the audience.
- No “um” “like” or “uh” verbal pauses.
- Speak slowly enough to be understood clearly and with an even, but not monotonous, cadence
- Put appropriate emotion and tone into your voice. A speech should be more formal than everyday conversation, but it should not sound like you are reading.
- Use appropriate hand gestures, but be sure that they are not distracting or pointlessly waiving.
- Stand still except for purposeful and deliberate movements. (Occasionally, taking one or two steps at a diagonal or to the side can emphasize a transition to another point or a contrast. Taking a step directly forward creates emphasis on the point.)

STEP 7: Present your poem and analysis to the class. You will first read your poem and then present the speech you have created from your essay.