

Poetry Writing Assignment

English 11 Honors/Jakymiw

Assignment: Choose one of the poems we have studied, *Some Verses Upon the Burning of Our House, July 10, 1666* by Anne Bradstreet OR *On the Emigration to America and Peopling the Western Country* by Philip Freneau. Write an analysis of how the poem reflects one of the major themes of American Literature that we have discussed.

Guidelines:

- Be sure you have a clear thesis that references the theme and poem.
- Discuss two specific literary devices in the poem (tone, figurative language, irony, symbol, etc.). Explain how the poet is using each device to create meaning. Include specific quotes from the poem to support your point. Be sure to analyze each fully.
- Your conclusion should wrap up your main idea but also move to a more encompassing point. Consider connecting the ideas in the poem to another work we have studied in class (Declaration of Independence, Star Spangled Banner, etc.)
- Your essay should be within a range of 1200-1400 words.
- Please submit your essay to turnitin.
- Include a catchy title.

Tonight's homework: sign up for a turnitin account for this class:

Class ID: 10585371

Enrollment Password: English

Poetry Writing Assignment – (50 points)

More Specific Guidelines:

Introduction: Introduce your topic and provide enough information to engage and contextualize your reader. Provide any significant background information that is necessary to understand your topic. Include the title and author of the work. Define any terms that are necessary for understanding the paper. **The thesis should be the last sentence of the introduction.** The thesis expresses the main idea of your paper. Make a specific statement about a particular theme in American literature and connect it to one of the poems.

Body Paragraph #1:

Topic Sentence: You should begin with a clear statement of the subtopic. How does this subtopic help to prove your thesis?

Development/Quote Set up: Explain the subtopic and prepare the reader for the evidence/quotes you will use. Before the quotation, describe the evidence in terms of the poem. Where is it located in the poem? Is it part of a pattern? Let your reader know what he or she should be looking for.

Quote: Choose a quote that will help support your sub-topic. Be sure to cite your evidence properly. Citing from a poem is different from citing from a prose text. Because the line form of poetry is so important, you must indicate where lines end by separating them with a slash mark "/". If you are quoting more than three lines, single space the passage, indent, and present the passage as it appears in the poem. Follow the quotation with the appropriate line numbers enclosed in parentheses.

For example:

“In silent night when rest I took,/For sorrow near I did not look,/I waken’d was with thund’ring noise” (1-3)

OR

And piteous shrieks of dreadful voice.
That fearful sound of “fire” and “fire,”
Let no man know is my Desire.
I starting up, the light did spy,” (4-7)

Analysis: Analyze the quote and show how the quote supports the claim you are making in your thesis and sub-topic. This is the most important part of your essay; it is where you make your interpretation clear to the reader and where you prove your thesis. The quotation will not speak for itself. Be sure you explain the poet's use of language. This is where you will discuss how the use of a particular literary device(s) (metaphor, symbol, diction, tone, etc.) creates meaning.

Body Paragraph #2: (Same as above – you will use a second example to support your thesis)

Topic Sentence

Development/Quote Set up

Quote

Analysis

Conclusion: Your conclusion should wrap up your main idea but also move to a more encompassing point. Consider connecting the ideas in the poem to another work we have studied in class (Declaration of Independence, Star Spangled Banner, etc.) This is where you can offer your interpretation of the poem, which by now should be convincing to your reader since you have presented your evidence in the body of the paper. You may raise new ideas in a conclusion, provided that they are solidly linked to the development of your argument. Remember, you have flexibility, but your conclusion should flow naturally from the body of your paper.