

Thesis and Focus (15%): The essay should have a clear thesis appropriate to the assignment, in which the writer addresses the elements of poetry and makes an argument involving analysis of the poems. There should be a strong focus on this thesis throughout.

15 13 11 10 8

Claims and Development (30%): The writer should develop his/her thesis through claims that analyze the text and establish the effects of the poems. It should be clear how the claims support the thesis, and the writer should relate those claims to each other and to the rest of the essay.

30 25.5 22.5 19.5 16.5

Support (30%): The writer should support all claims with examples from the poems (quotes and otherwise), and explain how these examples illustrate the claims in question. Support should be directly related to the claims, and explained well.

30 25.5 22.5 19.5 16.5

Organization (15%): Claims and support should move in a logical way. Paragraphs should be structured and ordered strongly. The analysis should remain focused and read like a cohesive whole, instead of several separate essays.

15 13 11 10 8

Prose/Mechanics (10%): Style should be appropriate for the assignment. Sentences should be well-written, with correct word choices and few grammatical errors. Quoted passages should be cited correctly in MLA format.

10 8.5 7.5 6.5 5.5

Grade: _____