

This is the poem I want for you to elaborate on:

**William Shakespeare: “ Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”
(Pg.878).**

Sample Thesis:

This is an example thesis statement that demonstrates how varied a thesis can be (this argument is based on one of our later readings for this course):

In Henrik Ibsen’s

A Doll’s House

, we are presented with an objectified, childlike housewife who only identifies by her first name; however, when we reach beyond the initial appearances, Nora proves to be a governing, forceful female presence who undermines her husband’s masculinity by saving his life with an illegal loan.

Basic Essay Structure:

Basic Essay Structure: What Do College Essays Usually Have?

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH-You'll start out with a hook (an interesting idea, fact, quote, etc.) that will engage your reader's interest. Then, you'll give a few sentences of background information that leads up to a thesis statement. Your very last sentence of your intro paragraph should be your thesis statement/argument. Think of it as a sort of funnel (an upside down triangle) where you start out with broad statements, and then you lead up to a specific argument. Remember, an argument is something where someone could object to your reasoning. Someone could say, "No way. You're wrong."

BODY PARAGRAPHS- Each body paragraph should represent a specific aspect of your thesis that you are trying to prove. The very first sentence should let your reader know what your entire paragraph is going to discuss, and the rest of the sentences should elaborate and build upon the very first sentence. For this essay, you'll want 2-3 body paragraphs.

CONCLUSION- Your conclusion just, in a basic sense, repeats your main ideas and offers any concluding remarks/ideas. My suggested formula for a conclusion is as follows:

1. rephrase thesis statement
2. rephrase topic sentences of body paragraphs
3. relate it to the bigger picture (convince your reader that what you just said is very important in the grand scheme of things. Sell your paper to your reader.)

List of Prevalent Poetic Devices:

SYMBOL - a symbol has two levels of meaning, a literal level and a figurative level. Characters, objects, events and settings can all be symbolic in that they represent something else beyond themselves.

METAPHOR - a comparison between two things which are essentially dissimilar. The comparison is implied rather than directly stated.

EXTENDED METAPHOR - an implied comparison between two things which are essentially not alike. These points of comparison are continued throughout the selection.

SIMILE - a comparison between two things which are essentially dissimilar. The comparison is directly stated through words such as like or as

PERSONIFICATION - giving human attributes to an animal, object, or idea.

ALLUSION - is a direct or indirect reference to a familiar figure, place or event from history, literature, mythology or the Bible.

IMAGERY - is the representation through language of the sensory experience. The image most often suggests a mental picture, but an image may also represent a sound, smell, taste or tactile experience.

HYPERBOLE - an exaggeration in the service of truth - an overstatement.

ALLITERATION - is the repetition of initial consonant sounds.

Ex) Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Ex) She sells seashells by the sea-shore.

CONSONANCE - the close repetition of identical consonant sounds before and after different vowels. (typically the end of words)

Ex) I think I like the pink kite (repetition of the "k" sound).

ASSONANCE - Vowel sound repetition

Ex) The light of a fire is a sight.

Ex) Hear the mellow wedding bells.

TONE - is the poet's attitude toward his/her subject or readers. it is similar to tone of voice but should not be confused with mood or atmosphere. An author's tone might be sarcastic, sincere, humorous

APOSTROPHE - a figure of speech in which a person not present is addressed.

ATMOSPHERE / MOOD - is the prevailing feeling that is created in a story or poem.

CACOPHONY - Harsh sounds introduced for poetic effect - sometimes words that are difficult to pronounce.

CLICHE - an overused expression that has lost its intended force or novelty.

CONNOTATION - the emotional suggestions attached to words beyond their strict definitions.

CONTRAST - the comparison or juxtaposition of things that are different

DISSONANCE - the juxtaposition of harsh jarring sounds in one or more lines.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE - Language used in such a way as to force words out of their literal meanings by emphasizing their connotations to bring new insight and feeling to the subject.

IDIOM - is a term or phrase that cannot be understood by a literal translation, but refers instead to a figurative meaning that is understood through common use.

IMAGERY - is the representation through language of sense experience. The image most often suggests a mental picture, but an image may also represent a sound, smell, taste or tactile experience.

IRONY - is a literary device which reveals concealed or contradictory meanings.

JARGON - language peculiar to a particular trade, profession or group.

JUXTAPOSITION - is the overlapping or mixing of opposite or different situations, characters, settings, moods, or points of view in order to clarify meaning, purpose, or character, or to heighten certain moods, especially humour, horror, and suspense. also Contrast

METAPHOR - a comparison between two things which are essentially dissimilar. The comparison is implied rather than directly stated.

METER - any regular pattern of rhythm based on stressed and unstressed syllables.

METONYMY - use of a closely related idea for the idea itself.

MOOD - see atmosphere

ONOMATOPOEIA - the use of words which sound like what they mean.

OXYMORON - two words placed close together which are contradictory, yet have truth in them.

PARADOX - a statement in which there is an apparent contradiction which is actually true.

PERSONIFICATION - giving human attributes to an animal, object or idea.

RHYME - words that sound alike

RHYME SCHEME - any pattern of rhymes in poetry. Each new sound is assigned the next letter in the alphabet.

RHYTHM - a series of stressed or accented syllables in a group of words, arranged so that the reader expects a similar series to follow.

SPEAKER - the "voice" which seems to be telling the poem. Not the same as the poet; this is like a narrator.

SYNECOCHE - the use of a part for the whole idea.

THEME - is the central idea of the story, usually implied rather than directly stated. It is the writer's idea about life and can be implied or directly stated through the voice of the speaker. It should not be confused with moral or plot.

TONE - is the poet's attitude toward his/her subject or readers. it is similar to tone of voice but should not be confused with mood or atmosphere. An author's tone might be sarcastic, sincere, humorous . .

TROPE - a figure of speech in which a word is used outside its literal meaning. Simile and metaphor are the two most common tropes.

VOICE - the creating and artistic intelligence that we recognize behind any speaker.

INTEGRATING QUOTES:

Integrating quotes = having your own words lead-in to a quote rather than having the quote isolated.

Sample excerpt from a work:

“Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way, but it is generally assumed that we cannot by conscious action do anything about it. Our civilization is decadent and our language—so the argument runs—must inevitably share in the general collapse. [But] the process is reversible. Modern English...is full of bad habits...which can be avoided if one is willing to take the necessary trouble” (Orwell 23).

*The quotes that you end up using in your essays should be less than three lines, so you'll pick the info that you need rather than large quotes.

*Use this to cut out any unnecessary info:

[...]

Ex. According to George Orwell, “Our civilization is decadent and our language [...] must inevitably share in the general collapse” (Orwell 23).

SAMPLE TEMPLATES

*These are sample templates you can follow to learn how to integrate your quotes, or you can use your own version of something like this:

According to (author's name) in (author's work), “_____” (last name pg number)

Americans have always believed that _____ (last name pg #).

Conventional wisdom has it that _____ (last name pg #).

Common sense seems to dictate that _____ (last name pg #).

The standard way of thinking about _____ has it that _____ (last name pg #).

It is often said that _____ (last name pg #).

Many people assume that _____ (last name pg #).