

Here is my official announcement regarding my overall essay suggestions, but please pay attention to my feedback that is specifically tailored to your essay.

1. Avoid speculative language ("may" "perhaps" "could"). Instead, assert your position/argument/authority. ("This happens because...")
2. No need to define poetic devices--just demonstrate what they're doing in relation to your overall argument. (Ex: no need to define "alliteration" or "imagery")
3. Don't mention ideas in general when you are writing your topic sentences for your body paragraphs--apply these ideas specifically to the poem. (Ex: Don't say "Many people experience heartbreak". Instead, state how heartbreak is demonstrated in the poem). However, you could mention some general ideas in your intro and conclusion.
4. Don't begin body paragraphs with a quote. Quotes should be used to support ideas/substantiate claims--not guide them. Begin body paragraphs with a topic sentence that outlines your paragraph's argument. Remember, each body paragraph is proving your thesis in a specific way.
5. Quote Stuff:

*integrate quotes (see "Helpful Documents" on Canvas for help). Here's an example:

According to Wordsworth, "insert quote here" (2-3).

Many have argued that "insert quote here" (Wordsworth 2-3).

*no block quotes (3 lines or less)

*only 1-2 quotes per body paragraph

*analyze the significance of each quote with at least a couple of sentences

6. Don't say that "you found it interesting"
7. Don't mention author by first name---only the entire name or by last name
8. Literature essays should typically be in the present tense when talking about the occurrences in the poem/in literature. This isn't the biggest deal, but try to at least remain consistent with the tense. For instance, if you say "Wordsworth does this", make sure that the rest of the paper remains in the present tense.
9. You can use the first person in this class, but don't overkill it with too many emotions/feelings. Stay focused.

- No summary (remember: summary vs. analysis) Ask yourself this question: so what?? In other words, why is this important to talk about? (always explain significance rather than just presenting info) Don't just say that something happens. Tell me WHY it is significant that this happens. What does it mean in relation to your argument?
- A Tip to Help with Adding More to Your Intro Paragraph: Engage with a hook, and spend a sentence or two after the hook, discussing the idea in general to make it more relatable to your audience. Then, slowly reel it in to apply the hook's ideas to your thesis by utilizing "strategic summary" (that's when you summarize the poem for a couple of sentences, but you choose your words carefully so that you're already beginning to persuade your reader without actually reaching your argument.) And finally, you conclude the intro with a specific thesis that someone could disagree with. If everyone would agree with it, you know that you're summarizing rather than analyzing.
- A Tip to Help with Adding More to Your Body Paragraphs: Ask more questions. Ask yourself, "Why is this important? What does this prove? What does this demonstrate in relation to my argument?"

* You should try to have a Works Cited Page for the final draft. Here are a couple helpful online generators you can take a look at if you'd like to try it out:

<https://www.easybib.com> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

<https://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/index.php> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

The recording from professor:

https://cccconfer.zoom.us/rec/share/YyWo3dNbO_n0a3e9LY6hHVgsSfv-rU-4AJUxFjrub5UOmf8zjz5qIX4fFdGO_SRF.7aKL2yNbifgOnJP9?startTime=1617143238000