

Category	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Argumentation	Makes a clear and accurate or defensible statement about the poem's meaning. Effectively uses evidence from the poem to explain the meaning.	Statement regarding meaning might be muddled or unclear, perhaps contains some misreading.	The essay fails to make a clear statement about the poem's meaning or makes a wild or indefensible claim.
Organization	The essay is well organized and well developed, with each paragraph introducing supporting evidence in a logical fashion.	The logic might seem haphazard or random, but the essay generally makes a case about the poem's meaning. Might misidentify poetic form.	The essay fails to proceed in a logical fashion or includes irrelevant observations.

Poetic Forms/Devices

Demonstrates a clear knowledge of poetic form and device. Correctly identifies and historicizes the poetic form when relevant. Makes accurate connections between the poetic devices and the content to explicate how the poet constructs meaning in the piece.

Correctly identifies some poetic devices and indicates how those are used in the poem. Might not make a clear connection between the device and the meaning.