

2016-2019 HIGH-SCORING ESSAYS

Introduction Word count range: 57- 96	Body Paragraphs Each paragraph word count range: 130-340	Conclusion Word count range: 26-112
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Context to the main issue or topic presented in the poem □ 1 sentence summary of the main idea of the poem □ Sets up an argument to be made—an interpretation that must be defended □ Thesis not only answers all layers to the prompt but also hits a ‘why’ □ What is the answer to the prompt and all its parts, and why is it important? □ Thesis nods to a thematic idea (if not explicitly stated) □ Thesis avoids vague devices and instead uses more precise language, for example: sinister diction vs. diction or religious imagery vs. imagery □ Introduces the author’s overall purpose to warn, educate, argue, etc. with development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Ends each body paragraph with a nod to theme or directly referencing and/or developing it □ Ends body paragraphs with effects on readers or author’s purpose regarding readers □ Relevant quotes are used several times within each body paragraph □ Quotes used are dissected and words are analyzed within the quotes included. Meaning, there are layers to the analysis of a quote. □ Quotes range between 3.4% and 20% of each body paragraph while analysis for those quotes ranges from 79.8% and 96.5% in each body paragraph. □ Most essays use more than 3 quotes or direct references to the text (up to 7) in each body paragraph. □ Strong verbs when discussing author’s purpose □ Frequent, smoothly imbedded quotes in each body paragraph (at least 3 in each) □ Never forgets there is an audience □ Tackles the poems from start to finish and divides paragraphs by shifts, changes, or stanzas within the poem while still hitting literary devices within those stanzas □ Hits effects on readers in each body paragraph □ Chooses 1 thing to focus on for complexity—1 big thing like relationships, theme, motives, tone, etc. and carries that complexity throughout the essay, developing on it. □ Variation in syntax throughout. □ Paragraphs have a distinctive voice and make claims with assertiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Ends with an overall “so what” for the poem □ Discusses author’s overall purpose of the poem □ Discusses what the author achieves in the poem □ Discusses reader takeaways □ A return to the opening observation made in the intro