

Guide to Preparing Poetry Part A / Part B Handout Instructions

Part A/Part B Handout Instructions: DUE 3:15 pm Mon., Dec. 19

Your work MUST fit comfortably on TWO SIDES of the page. Copier requires ¼" margin; leave at least ½". White space is helpful to the reader's eye. Font range 9 pt - 12 pt (depending on style). "Space between paragraphs" (Word Menu: Format>Paragraph>Spacing) can be helpful.

Part A: Inarguables

Life questions: (No fewer than 2, no more than 4)

These are questions that could be discussed BEFORE ever reading the poem -- but you should create them AFTER carefully and insightfully considering a wide range of responses and interpretations to your poem.

Speaker: Point of view (first, second, third person); note any shifts. Include inarguable characteristics that can be inferred.

Subject: Shortest possible summary of the poem's inarguable content.

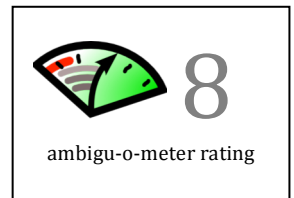
Audience: Can we know or infer anything about the imagined or intended audience of this speaker?

Line-by-Line Notes: Reference any word or phrase that is not in our common usage, or has a special meaning in this context. Include definitions, allusions, inferences, connotations, historical / cultural context.

line	text	definition, allusion, connotation, historical context, other comment
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Ambigu-o-meter: This is a subjective assessment of how "accessible" vs. how "arguable" this poem is. The higher the ambiguo-meter, the more the reader can do to infer and interpret. If the poem leaps from subject to seemingly unrelated subject, or contains outright contradiction or paradox, that will push the needle higher. A poem that is logical, easy to understand on a first read, with few interpretations, may have a lower rating--unless it is an extended metaphor, or highly symbolic.

(NOTE: ambiguo-meter is MsB's invention...do NOT use in formal discourse such as the IOC!)



Part B: Arguables

Form, structure and sound: Genre, stanza structure, register, literal vs. figurative, syntax, enjambment, rhyme/rhythm.

Prose meaning: This elaborates on "Subject" from Part A. Give more detail, stanza-by-stanza if appropriate, and acknowledge where meaning may be arguable due to leaps of subject, contradiction, symbolism, inference and interpretation.

Background and context: Although historical/cultural context is often inarguable, our sense of relevant context is often driven by interpretation. Use this section to expand on line notes as needed.

Selected literary elements: At least 3, no more than 5.

Interpretation, themes, ambiguities and arguable aspects: At least 3, no more than 5.

Key literary criticism: At least 2, no more than 4.

Choose DIFFERENT viewpoints (different interpretations, different views of significant features, etc.) to include.

Bibliography:

MLA format, with in-text citations for direct references.