

English 126 Poetry Essay Questions

Directions:

Keep in mind that a “journal” is not synonymous with a “diary.” I am looking for detailed answers in a structured, well thought out form. All work must be free of grammar, punctuation, mechanical, and spelling errors. Textual evidence for some of your answers -- and therefore parenthetical and a works cited page – will be required as needed. **Further, I strongly recommend that you re-type the question, and identify the subsections where appropriate. Finally, your journals must be typed and conform to basic MLA format.**

Your journal will be graded based upon the following criteria:

30% of your grade will be based upon organization;

70% of your grade will be based upon interpretation and the development of such.

To break this down into more tangible terms, each question is worth 20 points. 6 points will go toward organization and the remaining 14 points toward development.

	Mastering (6 pts.)	Developing (5 pts.)	Emerging (4 pts.)
Organization 6 pts.	Both the topic sentence and the key ideas have all the necessary information and the answer flows.	The topic sentence is missing information.	Both the topic sentence and the key ideas are missing information.
	Mastering (14 pts)	Developing (13 pts)	Emerging (12 pts)
Development 14 pts.	Identified critical thought beyond class discussion and proved it in sups.	Either didn't develop beyond class discussion or didn't prove it.	Both occurred.

All of your poems will have only three questions:

1. Interpret the poem, paying particular attention to the details. (For this question, which will be repeated for each poem, it may be helpful if you break it down into its stanzas.)
2. What values (think theme and more than one) seem central to the poem? What perspective(s) on human nature does the poem suggest?
3. In two paragraphs, explain how is this is an example of that particular period poetry and explain how this poem advances the hegemony of the times (i.e. is it used as a platform for social change or an example of the cost of change . . .)