

Poetry Essay First Draft Directions

- Read the article “How to Read a Poem” on the [poets.org website](http://poets.org).
- Choose *one* of the following prompts as the basis for your essay.
- Refer to both the article and *one to three* poem(s) in your essay.
- Include at least two quotes from each poem you are discussing. Do not discuss more than three poems.

Prompt 1

“Reading poetry well is part attitude and part technique.”

Write a 3-4-page essay in which you address this quote with reference to your *personal experience* of reading from one to three poems from the course. Please do not choose more than three poems.

Prompt 2

“Most readers make three false assumptions when addressing an unfamiliar poem.”

Write a 3-4-page essay in which you address this quote and the three assumptions with reference to your *personal experience* of reading one to three poems from the course. Please do not choose more than three poems.

Prompt 3

“Somehow a reader must ‘complete’ what the poet has begun.”

Write a 3-4-page essay in which you address this quote with reference to your *personal experience* of reading one to three poems from the course. Please do not choose more than three poems.

Note: Please follow MLA formatting guidelines and include in-text citations for both the poems and the article. Also include a Works Cited page and an original Academic Integrity pledge in which you define what you feel plagiarism is and assert that your essay is not plagiarized. **See outline below.**

OUTLINE

Original Title

(Try to make it interesting!)

Introduction

- Begin your essay with the exact, word-for-word quote you have chosen from the article.
- In your own words, restate the quote.
- In a one-sentence **thesis-statement**, express how the quote relates to your reading of 1-3 poems. Identify the title and author of the poem(s).

Body

- Give a brief (1-3-sentence) overview of what your poem (or poems) are about.
- Support your thesis (how the quote relates to your reading experience) with details about the poem(s).
- Include *quotes from the poems*. If you are discussing one poem, use 3 quotes. If you are using two or three poems, choose one or two quotes from each poem. Include correct in-text citation for each quote.

Conclusion

- Restate (not repeat) your **thesis**.
- Sum up your main ideas.

Work Cited Page

- Include a separate Work Cited page following MLA format.
-

Academic Integrity Pledge

- Write a brief statement in which you tell why you think students engage in plagiarism and pledge that you have not engaged in it.