

Four Paragraph Poetry Essay

Name _____ Date _____ Pd. _____

THESIS STATEMENT: A thesis statement is one sentence placed near the end of your introduction that describes the purpose of your essay.

A THREE PRONG THESIS is a thesis written for a five paragraph essay. It contains three main points, each of which corresponds with one of the body paragraphs within the essay.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE: is a technique that makes your thesis easier to understand. Write each PRONG of your thesis using the same structure. For example

- The book was *exciting, insightful, and interesting*. (all three prongs are adjectives)
- In *The Alchemist*, Santiago taught me to follow my dreams, to be brave, and to listen to my mentor. (Each prong is written using a verb in “to” form)
- Although Shakespeare and E. E. Cummings were very different poets, they wrote poetry that used rhyme, imagery, and figurative language to enhance their poems. (Each prong is a literary device)

How to write a good thesis:

There are many ways to write a thesis statement, and the following techniques are only examples. Ultimately, as long as you give your readers a concise statement that previews what your essay will be about, then you will have a proper thesis

Persuasive

TOPIC + OPINION + SUPPORT (3 for three prong thesis)

- Slavery was a historical wrong due to its negative impact upon families, the economy, and the human spirit.
- Cats are the best pets ever because they are mysterious, fun, and cute.

Expository

TOPIC + VERB + SUPPORT

- “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe fascinated me through its interesting plot, strange characters, and beautiful words.
- When we ignore our dreams to please others, we risk becoming depressed, feeling lost, and losing ourselves.

Compare/Contrast

TWO TOPICS + CONNECTION + CONCLUSION

- Although “The Road not Taken” by Robert Frost and “Phenomenal Woman” by Maya Angelou deal with different themes, they use many of the same literary techniques.
- E. E. Cummings’ “Somewhere I Have Never Traveled” and Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 130” both share the theme of unconditional love, and imitating these poems has allowed me to understand their meanings at a deeper level.
- Although Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 130” and “Sonnet 108” both use similar literary devices, their theme of beauty is treated completely different—one celebrates a lover’s inner beauty while the other celebrates her outer beauty.

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What is the essay prompt (what are you supposed to be writing about)?

I. INTRODUCTION

A. **HOOK** an interesting quote, statistic, fact, story, question, or controversial idea that grabs the reader's attention.

B. **SUPPORT** a sentence that elaborates on the **HOOK**

C. **TRANSITION** a sentence that connects **HOOK** and **THESIS**

D. **THESIS STATEMENT** must contain a topic, opinion, and answer how or why

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II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1

1. **TOPIC SENTENCE** explains what this paragraph will be about and makes a direct connection with the thesis

- A. **POEM 1:** Explain what you liked about this poem, why you chose it.

- a. **ELABORATION:** What is the theme of the poem?

- b. **ELABORATION:** What literary devices were used by the author?

- B. **YOUR IMITATION:** How is your poem similar and different from the original?

- a. **ELABORATION:** What is the theme of your poem? Why?

- c. **ELABORATION:** What literary devices did you use? How?

- C. **CONCLUSION:** Are you happy you're your poem? Why or why not?

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III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2

2. TOPIC SENTENCE explains what this paragraph will be about and makes a direct connection with the thesis

- D. POEM 2: Explain what you liked about this poem, why you chose it.

- d. ELABORATION: What is the theme of the poem?

- e. ELABORATION: What literary devices were used by the author?

- E. YOUR IMITATION 2: How is your poem similar and different from the original?

- b. ELABORATION: What is the theme of your poem? Why?

- f. ELABORATION: What literary devices did you use? How?

- F. CONCLUSION: Are you happy you're your poem? Why or why not?

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IV. CONCLUSION

A. TOPIC SENTENCE Transitions to conclusion and restates thesis

B. SUMMARIZE YOUR KEY IDEAS

a. _____

a. _____

C. CLINCHER OR CONCLUDING THOUGHT: gives the reader something to think about, ties it all together, makes a final statement that is thought-provoking.
