Poetry Essay Plan—write your two body paragraphs first!

# Introductory Paragraph:

## Author’s background, beliefs, references, values, criticism, historical influences, impact on society—hook/lead/grab reader’s attention

## Title, in quotation marks of course, and author of poem

## Thesis—tone and theme of poem—last sentence in this paragraph

# Body Paragraph 1: Poetic Devices…

## TS:

## 3 CDs/Quotes/Evidence:

## CS:

# Body Paragraph 2: Tone and Theme…

## TS:

## 3 CDs/Quotes/Evidence:

## CS

# Concluding Paragraph:

## Reestablish how the poem is a reflection of author’s life, times, strengths & weaknesses

## Reflect on what it tells one about the author

## Summarize the tone and theme, leaving one to feel satisfied with interpretation

**MLA Style: Poetry**

**In-Text Citations**

**Poem titles are enclosed in quotes. They are neither underlined nor italicized.**

Example:

Lord Tennyson’s “The Lady of Shalott” reflects the changing roles of women in the Victorian age.

**If you are quoting two-three lines of poetry, you will use a slash with one space on each side. The lines of poetry are enclosed in quotes. Page numbers are not cited.  Instead, the line number(s), enclosed in parentheses, go after the end quote and before any end punctuation.  You will usually find the line numbers to the left of the poem.**

Example:

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| Lord Byron uses alliteration in the following lines, "Where thoughts serenely sweet express / How pure,  how dear their dwelling-place" (11-12).  **Works Cited**  Author. Title of source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.  "Dean Young Biography." *Poetry.org*, National Foundation of Poetry, 01 Feb. 2014,  http://poetry.org/deanyoung/biography.  Young, Dean. “Only One of My Deaths.” *Poetry 180,* Ed. Billy Collins, Random House, 2003, New York. p. 60.  Young, Dean. “Only One of My Deaths.” *Poemhunter.com,* Poemhunter, 18 November 2016,  http://poemhunter.com/young/Only. |
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