

Writing Assignment #1: The Sonnet

Now that you have selected your Shakespearean sonnet, your first task is to write an explication of the sonnet. An explication is an explanation of not only what the poem means but how it means. Begin by completing a TP-CASTT. Next, consider the questions below. Finally, using the information you collect write a paper in which you explain how Shakespeare develops the meaning of his poem through structure and figurative language.

1. *Review pp. 710-716 in Bedford, and “Writing About Poetry” p. 292 in Sound and Sense.*
2. *What are the sentence structures?*
3. *What are the most powerful words? What feeling do you get from these words?*
4. *What is the central idea of the sonnet?*
5. *How do the lines break down into an introduction, development of theme, and conclusion? Is there a turning point in the sonnet?*
6. *What does the figurative language reveal about the central idea?*
7. *What is the tone of each quatrain? Does the tone change?*

Writing Assignment #2

In this assignment, you need to select a photo or piece of art that you feel accompanies the meaning of your sonnet. Then, in a short writing assignment of approximately one page, explain how the visual relates to the sonnet. You may discover that something in the painting is similar to the images in the poem or that the action in the painting relates to what is happening in the poem.

How can I deepen my understanding of my sonnet?

Title of art _____ Sonnet # _____

Artist _____

Once you have selected your art piece, complete the graphic organizer below to guide your comparison.

Initial Reaction to the art piece



Description of art



Connection to art Art aspect	Sonnet line reference
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Conclusions about how the art and sonnet are similar