



Advanced English Lit A
SONG ANALYSIS
PROJECT
Ms Martocello

TODAY WE'RE REVIEWING



Figurative Language & Essay Checklist

Analyze song lyrics as if they are a poem.
Write an essay analyzing the poetic elements, rhyme scheme, figurative language, and theme of the song.

Essay due:

12/8

Why this Project?

To practice analyzing literary techniques in a fun, relatable way.
To strengthen essay writing and critical thinking skills.



Steps to Success

- Choose a Song: Select a school-appropriate song with meaningful lyrics.
- Annotate your lyrics: Highlight poetic elements like rhyme, metaphors, imagery, etc.
- Plan Your Essay: Use your annotations to organize your analysis.
 - Write in MLA Format: Follow the structure and citation requirements.
 - Submit a Typed Essay: Present your analysis professionally.
- Analyze song lyrics as if they are a poem.
 - You are writing an essay analyzing the poetic elements, rhyme scheme, figurative language, and theme of the song.

Figurative Language Examples

Figurative Language: Words or expressions with a meaning different from the literal interpretation.

- Key types include:
 - Simile: Comparing two things using "like" or "as."
 - Example: "Her smile was as bright as the sun."
 - Metaphor: Comparing two things without using "like" or "as."
 - Example: "Time is a thief."
- Personification: Giving human traits to non-human things.
 - Example: "The wind whispered through the trees."
- Alliteration: Repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of closely connected words.
 - Example: "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers."
- Onomatopoeia: Words that imitate sounds.
 - Example: "The clock ticked loudly."
- Hyperbole: Exaggeration for emphasis or effect.
 - Example: "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse."
- Imagery: Descriptive language that appeals to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch).
 - Example: "The salty ocean breeze ruffled my hair as the waves crashed against the shore."

Essay Structure

(Typed in MLA Format)

- **Heading:** Your name, teacher's name, class, and date (top left corner).
- **Title:** Centered, creative, and related to your analysis.
- **Font & Spacing:** Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced.
- **Citations:** Include the song title and artist in your introduction and properly cite lyrics (e.g., "line from the song" [line #]).
- **Paragraph Breakdown:**
 - **Introduction (1 Paragraph):**
 - Introduce the song, artist, and why you chose it.
 - Include a thesis statement outlining the main poetic elements you'll analyze.
 - **Body Paragraphs (3-4 Paragraphs):**
- **Rhyme Scheme & Structure:** Explain the rhyme pattern and type of "poem" (e.g., narrative, free verse).
- **Figurative Language:** Identify at least 3 examples (e.g., metaphor, simile, personification) and explain their significance.
- **Imagery & Theme:** Analyze how imagery contributes to the song's overall message or mood.
- **Reflect on how the lyrics connect with the audience or your personal experience.**
- **Conclusion (1 Paragraph):**
 - Summarize your findings.

Grading Criteria

Rubric (Total: 100 Points)

- **Song Selection (10 points):** Lyrics are meaningful and school-appropriate.
- **Annotations (20 points):** Clear and thorough identification of literary elements.
- **Essay Content (50 points):**
 - Insightful analysis of poetic elements, theme, and structure.
 - Clear organization with an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- **Formatting (10 points):** Follows MLA guidelines (typed, double-spaced, proper citations).
- **Effort & Creativity (10 points):** Shows care, thoughtfulness, and originality.

Checklist

- I chose a school-appropriate song with rich lyrics.
- I annotated the lyrics for poetic elements (rhyme, figurative language, etc.).
- My essay is typed in MLA format (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced).
- My introduction includes the song title, artist, and a strong thesis statement.
- I analyzed the rhyme scheme and type of poem in one paragraph.
- I identified and explained at least 3 examples of figurative language.
- I analyzed imagery and explained the song's theme or message.
- My conclusion summarizes my analysis and includes personal reflection.
- I cited song lyrics properly (e.g., "quoted lyrics" [line #]).
- My essay is neat, well-organized, and shows my best effort.

Tips for Success

- Use examples from the lyrics to back up your points.
- Re-read your essay for clarity, spelling, and grammar.
- Email Ms. Martocello if you get stuck!
 - Remember: I can't help if I don't know there is a problem
- Double-check MLA format before submitting!