

Graphic Organizer : Responding to Poetry

Intro & Thesis Statement: State Title & Author POEM #7 by Emily Dickenson

Form of poem & what poem is about: 2 verses, abab rhyme scheme. Uses a metaphor to compare a person's heart and mind to a nation

In thesis, state message of poem. Each person is a world unto himself—an "ecstatic nation"—that is worth exploring.

Paragraph 2: Discuss poetic devices; use quotes from poem.

Topic Sentence: Uses a metaphor & Personification to compare a person to a nation

Reason, Fact Detail 1: Device #1 Metaphor
We are like a nation because our heart and mind make us complete within ourselves

Explain, Elaborate, Example:
"The Heart is the capital of the Mind"

Explain, Elaborate, Example:
We are a complete person by ourselves, but we also interact with others, just like one nation interacts with another

Reason, Fact Detail 2: Device #2
Uses Personification to give the nation emotion.

Explain, Elaborate, Example:
"this ecstatic nation"

Explain, Elaborate, Example:
Makes reader feel the nation is human—which it is, because nations are made up of humans

Conclusion: These two poetic devices help create wonderful imagery that reinforces the theme.

Paragraph 3: Interpret the poem. Discuss theme and your personal reaction to the poem. Use quotes from poem, and try to relate it to your own experience.

Topic Sentence: (Theme & Your response)
Theme of self-discovery is important and compelling

Reason, Fact Detail 1: Theme
Each person is a world unto themselves and they are worth exploring

Explain, Elaborate, Example:
"One-is the population—Numerous enough"

Explain, Elaborate, Example:
No matter how old you get, there is always something new to discover about yourself. It's important to do this in our busy world

Reason, Fact Detail 2: Your response
I agree that it is worthwhile to be alone with yourself and to try to understand yourself better.

Explain, Elaborate, Example:
"This ecstatic nation seek—it is yourself"

Explain, Elaborate, Example:
She tells us to spend time looking for ourselves and that there is a lot to discover in our own "nation"

Conclusion:
In today's world, it isn't easy to find time to be alone and reflective, but it is important if we want to know ourselves and become mature emotionally and spiritually

Conclusion: Restate your thesis in different words.
I love this poem because it says so much about life and self-discovery with so few words. We all live in our own world in a way, and must learn to be happy, or 'ecstatic' within ourselves so that we can create a better 'state' of being from which to live our lives.