

## AP English Literature Scoring Guide

### Question #1:

General Directions: This scoring guide will be useful for most of the essays that you read but in problematic cases, please consult your table leader. The score that you assign should reflect your judgment of the quality of the essay as a whole—its content, style, and mechanics. **Reward the writers for what they do well.** The score for an exceptionally well-written essay may be raised by one point above the otherwise appropriate score. In no case may a poorly written essay be scored higher than a three (3).

**9-8** These essays offer a persuasive analysis of [redacted]'s use of literary devices to convey the complex relationship of the [redacted]. The writers of these essays offer a range of interpretations; they provide convincing readings of both the complex relationship and [redacted] use of literary elements. They demonstrate consistent and effective control over the elements of composition in language appropriate to the analysis of poetry. Their textual references are apt and specific. Though they may not be error-free, these essays are perceptive in their analysis and demonstrate writing that is clear and sophisticated, and in the case of a nine (9) essay, especially persuasive.

**7-6** These essays offer a reasonable analysis of [redacted]'s use of literary devices to develop the complex relationship of the [redacted]. They are less thorough or less precise in their discussion of the relationship and [redacted] use of literary elements and their analysis of the relationship between the two is less convincing. These essays demonstrate the writer's ability to express ideas clearly, making references to the text, although they do not exhibit the same level of effective writing as the 9-8 papers. Essays scored a seven (7) present better developed analysis and more consistent command of the elements of effective composition than do essays scored a six (6).

**5** These essays respond to the assigned task with a plausible reading of [redacted] use of literary devices to develop the relationship of the [redacted], but tend to be superficial in their analysis of the relationship. They often rely on paraphrase, which may contain some analysis, implicit or explicit. Their analysis of the relationship of the [redacted] or of [redacted] use of devices may be vague, formulaic, or minimally supported by references to the text. There may be minor misinterpretations of the poem. These writers demonstrate some control of language, but their essays may be marred by surface errors. These essays are not as well conceived, organized, or developed as 7-6 essays.

**4-3** These lower-half essays fail to offer an adequate analysis of the poem. The analysis may be partial, unconvincing, or irrelevant, or may ignore the complexity of the relationship of the [redacted] or [redacted] use of devices. Evidence from the poem may be slight or misconstrued, or the essays may rely on paraphrase only. The writing often demonstrates a lack of control over the conventions of composition: inadequate development of ideas, accumulation of errors, or a focus that is unclear, inconsistent, or repetitive. Essays scored a three (3) may contain significant misreading and/or demonstrate inept writing.

**2-1** These essays compound the weaknesses of the papers in the 4-3 range. Although some attempt has been made to respond to the prompt, the writer's assertions are presented with little clarity, organization, or support from the poem. These essays may contain serious errors in grammar and mechanics. They may offer a complete misreading or be unacceptably brief. Essays scored a one (1) contain little coherent discussion of the poem.

**0** These essays give a response with no more than a reference to the task.

-- These essays are either left blank or are completely off-topic.