**502 Instructions**

OBJECTIVES

■ Use the writing process to draft and revise an essay

■ Write an effective thesis statement

■ Identify, define, and analyze literary elements

■ Develop critical reading skills

■ Use responsible research methods to locate appropriate secondary sources

■ Use Modern Language Association citation and documentation style to reference secondary source material correctly and appropriately

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, there aren’t too many students who claim to like poetry. But when was the last time you went a day without music? The fact is, music has always been more like poetry than many people realize, and if you can understand and appreciate the language and meaning of a song, then it wouldn’t be too hard to read and understand a poem. In this assignment, you’ll apply the techniques of reading poetry to song lyrics to explore the richness and appeal of figurative language.

Topic: Analyze the use of figurative language in a song (The River by Garth Brooks)

Purpose: To show how the song’s use of figurative language contributes to its appeal to its listeners

Method:

■ Prepare an outline or graphic organizer that will serve as the foundation for a 1,200–1,500 word essay

■ Begin the research process by preparing an annotated bibliography in Modern Language Association citation and documentation format that consists of at least five sources:

■ 1 primary source: the song lyrics

■ 4 secondary sources: song reviews, critiques, articles about the album, profiles of the singer and/or songwriter that focus on the music and lyrics **(not the individual’s personal life)**

* Develop the content for your outline or graphic organizer by first freewriting about your song:
  + What is the song about?
  + How does the song convey that subject?
  + What types of figurative language can you identify?
  + What does the figurative language represent?
  + Is the song popular?
  + Why do listeners find it appealing?

* + Your lyrics are your primary source and count as one source on your annotated bibliography.
  + You’ll need a minimum of four other sources. These sources should focus on the song’s popularity, appeal, and significance in its cultural context.
    - If you’ve chosen a contemporary song, that would mean analyzing why audiences have made it so popular—or perhaps reviled—today
    - Reviews by music critics
    - Profiles by journalists and other professional writers
    - Articles about the time period, cultural events, and social norms
  + Prepare Your Annotated Bibliography
    - Annotations are three to five sentence summaries of sources that follow the citation. Make note of content that is relevant to your topic and that will support your assertions.
    - Ensure that your citations are correct by checking them against the MLA requirements.
* Prepare Your Outline
  + Your outline should be sufficiently detailed to illustrate your plan for your essay. It should be as detailed as possible.
    - This work (both prewriting and essay) requires you analyze the use of figurative language in a song, and then illustrate that song’s cultural appeal and/or significance to its listeners.
    - Be sure to state your main points, secondary points, and supporting evidence.
    - Include any references to secondary sources as well, and use MLA parenthetical citation to link them to your annotated bibliography.
    - Revise your work to ensure that your thesis statement, main points, evidence, and secondary sources all work together to address the purpose of the assignment.
  + Deliverables
    - ■ Song lyrics
    - ■ Outline – Detailed
    - ■ Annotated bibliography
    - All must be
      * ■ 1-inch margins on all sides
      * ■ 12 pt. Times New Roman font
      * ■ Double spacing