

5 Selecting and sufficient evidence in a short poem – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

effective

sufficient

Recall

- You have quoted a whole stanza to use one word.
- You know a short poem gives you little to work with.
- You have run out of things to say about four lines.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Six purposes

Evidence can **illustrate, clarify, exemplify, associate, amplify or qualify** a point. Choosing which job a quotation does is a decision, not a formality.

Worked example. Amplifying strengthens a point; qualifying limits it, and an essay that only amplifies sounds one-sided.

■ 2 Effectiveness and sufficiency

Evidence is **effective** when commentary explains its relationship to the claim, and **sufficient** when quantity and quality together support the reasoning.

Worked example. Eight unexplained quotations are neither effective nor sufficient.

■ 3 The two opposite faults

Too little: one quotation carrying a whole essay. **Too much:** quoting most of a short poem, leaving nothing for the commentary to be about.

Worked example. Quoting ten of fourteen lines leaves the essay with no space to say anything.

Watch out: In a short poem sufficiency is almost always about quality. The right three words, closely read, outweigh six loosely gestured at.

Practice

2.1 Name four of the six purposes evidence can serve. [2]

2.2 Distinguish amplifying from qualifying. [2]

2.3 State when evidence is effective and when sufficient. [2]

2.4 Name the two opposite faults in using evidence. [2]

2.5 Explain why sufficiency in a short poem is about quality. [2]
