

Emily Dickinson Exegesis Essay

Final Reflection Instructions

Please note that you will not receive gradebook credit for your Emily Dickinson Exegesis Essay (EDEE) until you have completed your Final Reflection.

N.B. Because the essay process is not complete until the final step is submitted, tardy or incomplete notes will produce grade penalties for the entire essay process.

Please read and follow these directions carefully!

1. You must first review your EDEE draft, annotating your work following the instructions on the handout entitled "Elements of Exegesis Essays Checklist."

2. Then, and only then, create an e-mail note addressed to your instructor.

3. In the Subject line of the e-mail, use this title, substituting the appropriate information in place of the angle brackets:

<your name> EDEE Final Reflection

4. Remember to send along a complete epistle, including salutation and valediction.

5. In the body of the e-mail, answer these three questions, providing complete tenable arguments for each answer:

A. THE SURPRISE ELEMENT: What is the one element of your final draft that most surprised you during your re-reading?

- If the surprise was pleasant, explain WHY and what lesson you have learned.
- If the surprise was unpleasant, explain WHY and what lesson you have learned.

You can find two examples below.

B. A MOMENT OF MILD EMBARRASSMENT: What one sentence makes you least happy, and WHY? In addition, rewrite the sentence in a way that makes you happy now, and explain how it produces that effect. You can find an example below.

C. A SOURCE OF PRIDE: What one sentence are you most proud of in your essay, and WHY? Find one great sentence, type it

into the e-mail, and tell your instructor why you chose that sentence. Be very specific! You may NOT use the sentences that was also your "Surprise Element." You can find an example below.

Marks for the essay process will be posted after you have submitted this Final Reflection. If you are eager to learn your mark on your EDEE, you may politely request it at the end of your e-mail.

Please note that all examples are provided with the permission of the students who wrote them.

EXAMPLE A (pleasant): THE SURPRISE ELEMENT

I don't remember how I managed to do it, but I actually described what the protagonist (me!) looked like after the accident: "As I began to figure out where I was, the upside-down ATV was pinning my favorite green jeans to the ground and there were bright red splatters of blood on my pink Pocahontas t-shirt"(2). I like that I remembered to describe my physical appearance for my "audience of ignorant animals."

EXAMPLE A (unpleasant): THE SURPRISE ELEMENT

I should have had a better title. I can't believe I used such a lame title. I admit that even *I* don't really want to read "How I Learned Something About Me" (1). All it does is say the assignment. Now I think I should have made my title more specific and interesting, something like "Pinching a Policeman." That's what my story is about.

EXAMPLE B: A MOMENT OF MILD EMBARRASSMENT

I sure wish I had not written this sentence: "During second grade my one desire in life: a play date with Ahmeb's sister" (1). For one thing, this isn't even a sentence because there's no verb (which makes it a fragment) and for another thing, I have misspelled the character's name. Instead, I'd write "I desired only one thing in my life: a play date with Ahmed's sister." Now it's not a fragment and it spells the character's name correctly.

EXAMPLE C: A SOURCE OF PRIDE

I'm really proud of this sentence: "Like a frightened gazelle, my father raced around the corner of the house with the angry pit bull close behind" (2). I selected this sentence because I like the simile and the verb "raced." In an earlier draft, I used the verb "ran" but "raced" is more descriptive. I also like the way this sentence describes the action.