**Poetry Explication Video Project—AP Literature**

# Explication (n.) *An explication is a mini-essay on a literary work. In an explication, it is important that you discuss the theme of the poem, but you must do so only as the issue is evoked by the poem, itself, and through close reading, and analysis of the poem’s language and structural devices.*

Your task is to create a video explication of a sonnet or villanelle of your choice. You must choose from the sonnets/villanelles provided in your poetry packet.

You will be shown examples of video poetry explications, but you are not limited to the creative expressions contained within the examples presented. The possibilities are endless, and you may choose to take whatever creative route you would like. However, your video must meet all requirements in the rubric.

Requirements:

**Brainstorming**: Review the poems you have read/annotated so far, and brainstorm what you could do with each poem. When selecting a poem, ask yourself the following questions:

-How might I reveal the hidden, complex meanings of this poem (theme) without reducing the poem to clichés or oversimplifying it? (i.e. explicate it!)

-How might I discuss the literary devices AND structural elements that contribute to this poem’s complex meanings?

-How might I represent this poem with imagery/photos?

-What possible lenses could be applied to this poem (i.e. feminist, psychoanalytic, Marxist, etc.?)

**Explicating:** After you have selected a poem, you must write 14 line mini-analysis of the sonnet or a 19-line mini-analysis of the villanelle. This will essentially become the “script” of your video explication.

**Storyboarding**: Sketch out each portion of your video on the provided storyboarding sheets and show which portion of the poem you plan to use with each of the images you draw. This will serve as the rough draft of your video poem and help you make decisions as to how your final video will look.

**Video Poem:** Use your storyboard as a reference to create your video. Please see the rubric for the guidelines. First, introduce your poem and poet. Then, you will recite your poem using appropriate inflection, pronunciation, pauses, and volume. Include the text of your poem in your video. Make sure it is clearly visible and readable. Your recitation should be accompanied by appropriate images that follow the structure of the poem and complement its meaning.

Then, explicate your poem section by section. Be sure your explication addresses both literary devices (ex: tone, imagery, metaphor, symbols, etc.) and structural elements (ex: enjambment, rhyme, meter, etc.) Your ultimate objective is to illuminate the poem’s complex meanings and show *how* the poet creates these effects using literary devices and structural elements. Include text of the poem when appropriate and necessary.

You will be given some class time to work on this project, but also plan to spend time outside of class on this project as well. You will upload your finished video to Flipgrid.

**Video Explication Requirements/Rubric**

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|  | **A+ (8-9) A (6-7)** | **B (5)** | **C (3-4)** | **D/F (2-1)** |
| **Recitation/Speaking** | - speaks clearly and articulately  -volume, rhythm, and vocal intonation greatly enhance the poem.  -Pacing is appropriate to the poem. | - speaks clearly and articulately  -volume, rhythm, and vocal intonation are appropriate to the poem.  -Pacing is appropriate to the poem. | - speech may be less clear or articulate  -volume, rhythm, and vocal intonation do not necessarily enhance the recitation. Might occasionally distract from the poem’s meaning or is somewhat monotone.  -Pacing is somewhat slow or rushed. | - speech is unclear and difficult to hear or understand  -volume, rhythm, and vocal intonation distract from the poem’s meaning.  -Pacing is inappropriate for the poem. |
| **Explication/Analysis** | -explication is highly insightful and focused  -analyzes the poem’s complex meanings and how the poet creates effects.  -Clearly and skillfully addresses each section of the poem, paying careful attention to both structural elements and literary devices.  -explication illuminates hidden meanings | -explication has moments of insight and may touch on the poem’s complex meanings without fully analyzing  -discusses how the poet creates effects but does not have the depth of a 6-9 explication.  -Addresses each section of the poem along with both structural elements and literary devices but may lack detail and depth.  -may focus on more obvious meanings | -explication has minimal insight and may only address surface meanings (summary at expense of analysis)  -only offers a surface discussion of literary devices and structural elements (listing and labeling)  - analysis lacks detail and depth; may not fully address each section  -summary at the expense of analysis | -lacks insight (too brief or summary only)  -minimal to no mention of literary devices or gives a critique or review instead of an analysis “Shakespeare did a good job at…”  -no attempt at explicating the poem’s deeper, complex meanings; reductive/clichéd.  -explication shows little to no understanding of the poem |
| **Video** | -Video begins with the poem’s title, poet, and your name  -Timing allows enough time to read text and see images/photos  -Video includes appropriate transitions that fit well with the mood or tone of the poem  -Video includes appropriate sound/narration that relate to the mood/tone of the poem  -Sound/narration is clear and audible  -Images in the video relate to the text  -Video includes the text of the poem where appropriate  -Text and images are clear and easily read | Does not meet 1 of the criteria of an A+/A video. | Does not meet 2 criteria of an A+/A video. | Does not meet 3 or more criteria of an A+/A video. |

**STORY BOARDING**