Summerville Union High School

17555 Tuolumne Road, Tuolumne, CA 95379

**Ms. Diehl**

“***Live*** as if you were to die tomorrow.

***Learn*** as if you were to live forever.” Mahatma Gandhi

**Assignment**—Please get out your annotated copy of “The Raven” and “The Tell Tale Heart.” You are going to evaluate one of your peers’ paragraphs, looking through the lens of a grader. As you read, please annotate the text and ask yourself the following questions:

1. Does the **thesis** introduce the title or the text, the author, the device, element and theme?

***Try to avoid theses that look like this:***

*In order to convince his audience that his narrator doesn't suffer from insanity, Poe uses diction to create the mood.*

**Main idea**

***Instead, think of the following:***

*In his eerie poem, “The Raven,” Poe poignantly weaves into his story his far fetched and unconvincing hyperboles, thus creating his sardonic attitude towards the subject, and ultimately, teaching the reader that loneliness can lead one to the utmost place of alienation.*

2. Then, look at the first CX (Context). Does it let the reader know what is being discussed in this

particular part of the story/poem before the textual evidence is presented? Is CX present?

3. Analyze the first concrete detail (CD). Is there a lead-in? Is punctuation proper? How about

the MLA parenthetical citation? Does it follow the following format: **He states, “And the silken**

The Focus: CD#1

**sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain thrilled me” (Poe 2).**

4. Analysis (CM)—the most critical part of the paragraph. Think of the following: What I device? Where in the piece is it used? How does it shape the element of literature? What does this mean? How does it reveal his attitude (tone)? How does it evoke an emotional response (mood)?

How does it specifically shape Poe’s tone? How does all of this work together to help the reader understand his main idea/thesis?

5. Transition into the next Concrete Detail (CX #2). Use phrases like: Later on in the piece; As

he concludes his story; Near the middle of the text; Further on in the story. Also, be

The Focus: CD#2

sure to let the reader know what he is talking about in this particular part of the text (brief

synopsis).

6. Introduce the second concrete detail (CD #2)

7. Analysis (CM #2)

8. Concluding Sentence: Tie all of this together—full circle.

**\*Important things to remember:**

* Avoid first or second person (I, me, us, we, you, our, etc.)
* Comma rules must be followed
* Is the syntax complex?
* MLA format must be followed
* Avoid contractions
* Punctuation is key
* Spelling

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| --- |
| Student  Ms Diehl  Pre­AP English 9; 2A  21 September 15  Poe’s Style  Poe's Style Throughout his uncanny poem, "The Raven," Poe utilizes interesting, clever, and formal diction to shape his ominous attitude, to educate the reader about how impossible it can be to get past the loss and mourn for loved ones, and also how lament can overtake and possess someone. Throughout the poem, there is plentiful use of descriptive wordage that gives off an ever so baleful feeling, such as "beguiling." Towards the beginning the narrator comments, "From my books surcease of sorrow–sorrow for the lost Lenore," which indicates that he has lost someone important, and is being vigorously reminded of his loss (Poe 2). It is evident that the narrator is in a deep state of lament, and is possibly feeling guilt, for his "lost Lenore", but who is this, and why is this person having such a sorrowful effect on the narrator. The word usage in this stanza gives off a mournful, melancholy feeling, that is in the early stages of his tone's total revelation. This feeling of bewailing is the start of showing that it is immensely hard to move on from a loss, especially with the "lost Lenore". Later on the speaker begins talking in a loud, terrified voice, almost as if he is trying to intimidate, or gain power over, the formidable Raven. Toward the end of this piece of poetry, the petrified raconteur utters to the devilish Raven, "Desolate yet all undaunted, on this desert land enchanted­ On this home by horror haunted–tell me truly, I implore­ Is there–is there balm in Gilead?–tell me–tell me, I implore," proving that the diction of this poem has a very wide set variety (Poe 4). He refers to the balm in Gilead, which means healing of the wounded; when he says this he is asking the Raven if he will ever recover from his loss of Lenore, and the Raven replies "Nevermore." This stanza gives an idea of what exactly the speaker is going through and also how he is having plenty of trouble getting past his lost Lenore. When he figures out he can not overcome his sorrow he still believes that the fowl is either demon or devil, but in reality the Raven is only a messenger for, or of Lenore. Poe's wording creates an excellent base for his view, and position on his poem. The word choice starts with a sorrowful tone, but vastly changes into an ominous, and menacing attitude. This transition from mourning to threatening, gives a great stance for how difficult it really is to get over losing someone or something of importance. The diction also helps the audience with the mood of the story, and the wording also makes the poem much more captivating, than without. Ultimately, the ingenious, and descriptive word choice in this poem supports the author's minatory, and direful perspective, which helps edify the audience on just how onerous getting past the passing or loss of someone or something really is, and also how a person can become haunt, consumed by bemoaning. |

**\*Now, using the following rubric, and looking at the details on the previous page, assign this paragraph a grade and explain your rationale (no less than five sentences). Provide positive feedback and constructive feedback.**

Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/30 **Feedback:**

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20

Voice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15

Word Choice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15

Sentence Fluency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

Conventions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/100

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**Assignment**—Now, please print out a hard copy of your own paragraph and go through the same process. Annotate it, pointing out every specific element necessary to writing a cohesive, strong paragraph. Look specifically at the analysis. Did you answer the necessary questions to write rich, thought-provoking ideas? Then, once you annotate it, please assign it a grade. Attach this page to the FRONT of your paragraph please and be sure to write at least 10 sentences of feedback for this particular assignment. In order to become a great writer, you have to know what you do well and what you need to focus on for the next composition.

**GRADING RUBRIC: FEEDBACK:**

Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/30

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20

Voice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15

Word Choice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15

Sentence Fluency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

Conventions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/100