

Writing: Analytic Response to Literature**Practice**

When you write an **analytic response to literature**, you state your overall opinion of the work and support that opinion with aspects of the text. You might have liked a work because the characters were well developed and interesting. You might have disliked a work because the theme was unclear. Your response should include the following:

- thesis statement—a short expression of your overall response to the work. For example, *“The Weary Blues” by Langston Hughes is an excellent poem.*
- a definite focus on either a single aspect of the work (for example, the setting of a story) or two to three aspects of the work that were important in forming your opinion. For example, *The sounds and rhythm in the poem echo the sounds and rhythm of blues songs.*
- specific evidence from the work (including quotations) that support the opinions you have stated. For example, *The sounds of these lines make their own rhythm and music: “Down on Lenox Avenue the other night / By the pale dull pallor of an old gas light”*

A Follow the instructions to complete each of the items below.

1. Songs are poems set to music. Think of one of your favorite songs. Write a thesis statement for an analytic response to the words of this song.

2. What focus would you use to prove your thesis?

B Two statements about “Metaphor,” a poem by Eve Merriam, are on the left. Quotations from the poem are on the right. Match each statement with the quote that best supports it.

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| 1. _____ Merriam uses an extended metaphor. | A. “and a new day / to write on.” |
| 2. _____ Repetition in the poem demonstrates the repetition of days. | B. “Morning is / a new sheet of paper / for you to write on.” |