

**ang070/ang071 S/Ü "Introduction to the Critical and Scholarly Discussion of Literature"
Assignment 1: "Analysing Poetry"**

This assignment is a mandatory part of your portfolio and needs to be handed in on time. It is ungraded but a sample solution will be published on the Institutswiki. Additionally, you can receive feedback in the office hours of your respective instructors.

Please make sure to upload your assignment on Stud.IP on time. Every assignment must include a cover sheet and the statement on plagiarism. Present your results in complete sentences. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

Formal and Media-specific Analysis: Communicative Situation, Themes, Figurative Speech, etc.

(1) Communicative Situation: What do you find out about the speaker, the addressee, the communicative situation?

(2) Theme(s): Identify the various sections of the poem. Comment on the theme(s) and its/their development from one section to the next!

(3) Comment on genre, metre, interplay and rhyme scheme.

(4) Figurative Speech: Identify one metaphor from this poem and analyse it closely. Comment on the frequency and use of figurative speech in the poem.

Functional Analysis: Toward a Problem-oriented Sample Analysis

Build your functional analysis on the data generated through your formal analysis and suggest a possible problem orientation:

(5) Identifying a research problem on the basis of your formal analysis: Briefly suggest how the manner of speaking (tasks (3) and (4)) complements the communicative situation (task 1) and the theme(s) (task 2).

Comparison: Correspondence and/or Contrast

(6) Suggest one other poem that corresponds and/or contrasts with the given poem in an aspect relevant to the research problem you have specified.

(7) Briefly discuss how both texts relate to this problem. Address potential differences in representation and their possible functions.

Sonnet on the Death of Mr. Richard West

Thomas Gray

In vain to me the smiling mornings shine,
And redd'ning Phoebus lifts his golden fire:
The birds in vain their amorous descant join,
Or cheerful fields resume their green attire:
These ears, alas! for other notes repine,
A different object do these eyes require.
My lonely anguish melts no heart but mine;
And in my breast the imperfect joys expire.
Yet morning smiles the busy race to cheer,
And new-born pleasure brings to happier men:
The fields to all their wonted tribute bear;
To warm their little loves the birds complain.
I fruitless mourn to him that cannot hear,
And weep the more because I weep in vain.

Explanations:

l.2 Phoebus Greek god, associated, among other things, with light and with the sun
l.9 race *here*: mankind