ENGL 1102 / Assignment for Benchmark Papers: Responding to Poetry

Task: Write an essay that analyzes a poem. Your analysis should examine the ways in which one or more elements of the poem function to create meaning.

Thesis Statement: The thesis statement must be at the end of your first paragraph. It must make a claim about how the poem works or what the poem means, and all the body paragraphs that follow must support it.

Length of Paper: From two to three pages, not counting the “Works Cited” list.

General Format:
- The paper must be typed.
- Double-space the entire paper.
- Indent to mark the beginning of each paragraph.
- Place a title at the top of your first page; no title page is necessary. Use standard MLA format for first page. All lines should be double-spaced and ONLY double-spaced.
- Margins (top, bottom, and both sides) must be ONE inch wide.
- REQUIRED FONT: TIMES NEW ROMAN, SIZE 12. Use standard, no italics or bold.
- Paragraphing: The paper must comprise at least five well-developed paragraphs. More than five is encouraged.

Research and Documentation: You are not required to use secondary sources for this paper. (In this situation, a secondary source is a published written work that informs you about either the poem you are writing about or the poet who wrote it.) If you wish to use secondary sources, you may, but only if you AVOID PLAGIARISM and use sources correctly, responsibly, and in a LIMITED fashion that allows you to develop YOUR OWN thoughts and ideas. Complete and correct MLA documentation with a correct “Works Cited” list is required for any secondary sources used.