



# Writing on 2 or more texts

Preparing for an essay on the poetry of  
Samuel Wagan Watson

Writing on two or more poems: how to structure an answer - patterns

- Look for patterns and group poems, ideas and use of conventions & techniques

HOW patterns - symbols, motifs, imagery, hybrid phrasing, tone, structure and pacing,

WHAT patterns – representations, ideas about cultural identity, national identity, Australian history, attitudes, values

- Draft a thesis and topic sentences that outline those patterns
- 1 pattern per paragraph: HOW + WHAT

# Tracing patterns across two poems

- Cheap white goods
- Dingo lounge
- Patterns:

HOW – symbols of Western market culture, industrial culture, symbols of indigenous culture

Imagery -

Tone – sardonic, bitter, critical

WHAT – devaluing of indigenous culture, commodification of indigenous culture (Western capitalist values - making money) , death of indigenous culture, domination by mainstream Western culture – dismissive attitude towards indigenous culture

Writing on two or more poems: how to structure an answer - patterns

- Draft a thesis and topic sentences that outline those patterns
- 1 pattern per paragraph: HOW + WHAT
- Either choose 3 HOW (techniques/poetic devices) patterns & identify the ideas they construct
- Or choose 3 WHAT (ideas) patterns and identify the techniques that construct them

Example of  
Structure using  
HOW patterns:

- **Thesis:** Wagan Watson's poems 'X' and 'Y' explore ideas about \_\_\_\_\_ through the use of poetic devices such as symbolism, haunting imagery, and a sardonic tone.
- **TS 1** – In these poems **symbols** of \_\_\_\_\_ function to explore ideas about \_\_\_\_\_.
- **TS 2** - \_\_\_\_\_ **imagery** is also used to explore the idea that \_\_\_\_\_.
- **TS 3** – The exploration of ideas about \_\_\_\_\_ is further developed through **language choices** that build a \_\_\_\_\_ **tone**.

Example of  
Structure using  
WHAT patterns:

- Thesis: Wagan Watson's poems 'X' and 'Y' construct representations of indigenous culture as **commodified, appropriated and damaged** by the greed of mainstream Australian culture through the use of poetic devices such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- TS 1 – In these poems representations of indigenous culture as **commodified** are constructed through \_\_\_\_\_.
- TS 2 – 'X' and 'Y' further construct a representation of **the greed of western culture in its appropriation of sacred indigenous cultural elements** using \_\_\_\_\_.
- TS 3 – Lastly, 'X' and 'Y' construct a searing representation of the **damage wrought to indigenous culture and identity** through the use of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Structure an answer – poems

- The problem with writing on 1 poem per paragraph will be how to link paragraphs
- This structure might be appropriate if you wish to compare and contrast two or more quite different poems.
- Ensure you still cover HOW and WHAT in your thesis and topic sentences.

## Compare and Contrast language

Showing similarity or similarity & difference

- Like . . . also
- Both . . . But

Showing difference

- While
- Whereas
- Although

Refer to the section in the Good Answers book on writing about two texts.



## Sample sentence stems

- While \_\_text A (name the poem) \_\_\_\_\_ uses \_\_\_\_\_ to explore ideas about \_\_\_\_\_, text B uses \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Both A and B explore \_\_\_\_\_ but in differing ways: A uses \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_, while B explores \_\_\_\_\_ through the use of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Like Text A, Text B also ....