

Sample 8th-Grade Essay (Poetry Analysis)

Prompt: Craft a single paragraph analyzing how Macklemore uses 1-2 literary devices to develop a message throughout his rap.

Formatting key: Thesis Quote set-up Information Detailed Analysis Ending
strong vocabulary

Through the use of imagery in the rap *Wing\$*, by Macklemore, the author portrays his bliss as a young child receiving a popularized item he truly desired and feeling unstoppable, but eventually realizing what he wears doesn't define him, and that huge companies, when fueled by the extreme desire for profit, can overpraise items. After Macklemore tried playing basketball with his new shoes on, he hollered, "I touched the net, momma I touched the net, this is the best day of my life." This quote shows the exhilaration and empowered feeling he feels after purchasing a praised product. The child feels like he can do anything he desires, and he thinks that he is going to be able to succeed in what he loves only because he has his shoes. Macklemore admits, "On the court I wasn't the best, but my kicks were like the pros." Although he couldn't compete with his peers skill-wise, he still felt confident because his shoes made him feel just as special. Macklemore later reflects and comments, "See it consumed my thoughts.../ **Strangled** by these laces, laces I can barely talk." This quote shows precisely that his opinions and common sense were being restricted by persuasive advertising. He feels that he is no longer thinking independently; he is too worried about appearing cool, and constantly looking up to par that he no longer has his own **sensational style**. This is significant as it demonstrates how advertising can draw people of any age into purchasing something they didn't need. Especially at a young age, these thoughts may lead to overspending and poor financial choices later in life. He may also have more self-doubt, and over time, his connections with his friends might dim if he blindly believes stereotypes. Macklemore's realization will help him be more cautious and think for himself, avoiding further disappointment and tricks. Additionally, Macklemore will rely on others less, leading to him being more open-minded and analyzing concepts for himself. As he explores new concepts, he may learn more about others, making other people feel acknowledged and valued, therefore increasing his connection with them. Macklemore describes the feeling of only letting himself be driven by the encouraging, consumerism-fueled words he was being fed, and letting himself believe that he needs popular items to succeed. He warns readers how easy it is to fall for the alluring trap to buy products just to feel fulfilled.

Thesis

Strong vocabulary

Information

Quote set-up

Information

Information

Detailed Analysis

Strong vocabulary

Ending

- ✓ Answers prompt
- ✓ Includes literary device
- ✓ Includes author's message

Quote set-up

- ✓ Info from text shows claim

Detailed Analysis

Detailed Analysis

Quote set-up

- ✓ Explains quote

- ✓ Proves and builds upon the claim

Sentence variety

- ✓ Simple
- ✓ Complex
- ✓ Compound

- ✓ Summary

- ✓ Identifies lesson