How to Write Assertions for Literary Analysis

1. Determine a prominent literary/figurative language device.
2. Find at least 3 examples from the excerpt/poem.
3. Write a clear but briefly-stated argument.

Example 1: “When you have a leash on love/Ain’t no one going to mess with you” (5-6).

Example 2: “Sometimes you swat love on the nose,/Not so much to cause pain,/Just to let love know *Don’t you ever do that again!”* (26-28)

Example 3: “Most of all, love needs love, lots of it./And in return, love loves you and never stops”

Basic content: Title/Author(Poet)/Genre + device/literary technique + function/effect of device

Basic structure: GT, A + device + function

Modeled assertion:

In his poem, “How Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog,” Taylor Mali uses an extended metaphor to show both the frustrations and the enduring power of love.

Additional Considerations:

1. The entire poem—not a portion—must be considered in the assertion.

2. Do NOT state what the device is (this is a fact). State its *function/effect (*becomes an argument*)*.

3. Do NOT argue the literal (A). Argue the figurative (B).

Your Example Here: