**Thematic Statement:** Begin the TEAR paragraph with a statement of the theme that you intend to discuss in your analysis. Make sure this sentence includes TAG information (title, author, genre).

* Emily Dickinson’s whimsical poem “There is no Frigate like a Book” relates the power that literature and poetry have to take us out of our everyday worlds and into other worlds, both real and imagined.

**Evidence:** Restate and support your previous assertion using one or two sentences that incorporate quotations from the text. On an \*AP exam, it is important to demonstrate a higher level of writing by embedding this evidence within your own words rather than merely inserting quotations independently between sentences.

* She claims the “Frigate of a Book” and the “prancing Coursers” of a page can take the poorest of us “Lands away” without the worry of “Toll,” or payment.

**Analysis:** In two to three sentences, explain how the poetic device you just quoted contributes to the overall meaning, or theme, you offered in your first sentence.

* Dickinson’s diction of elegant travel reflects the luxurious journeys any of us can take with literature. We will not simply be transported, we will sail elegantly on “Frigates” and be taken away by beautiful, “prancing Coursers.” Both of these types of travel are swift and refined and are absolutely free, just like the experience of reading good literature.

**Response:** Without using first-person pronouns, respond to the poem or passage. Was the use of poetic devices effective? Was there any specific passage that really spoke to a universal truth? This step is not about liking the poem or not liking it: it is about making some kind of connection with the piece through the meaning that you analyzed above.

* Literature really is the universal ticket to adventures everywhere. Through simply reading a poem or piece of fiction, the reader is transported free of charge to any desired destination. Some of the most memorable trips take place in childhood while reading those first magical books and poems.

**Why use TEAR?** The SPOTTTSS activity you learned creates the foundation for poetry analysis; TEAR is the tool that you will use to build on that foundation. The TEAR paragraph is like a condensed version of an analytical essay. The Thematic statement that you used to begin the paragraph will be elaborated on to become the introductory paragraph that you use to begin your essay. Evidence and Analysis will be incorporated into body paragraphs that provide analytical discussions of literary elements. To close your essay, you will write a concluding paragraph, like the Response portion of the TEAR paragraph, that communicates your evaluation of your analysis. If you can learn to write an effective TEAR paragraph, you will have the skills and understanding to write a timed College Board essay.