

Any response you write needs to have a **structure**. Usually you **begin by stating your opinion/belief** to a topic or concept and **introduce the piece of text** you are referring to.

Next you would introduce the details you are using to support your opinion and explain/discuss how the text you are using demonstrates that. Essentially, **use the text as "proof" to support your ideas/opinions**. Usually you will use some **direct quotes** from the text.

For this assignment you are to discuss *how writers engage their readers and* use the poem you analysed/studied as the text to support your ideas.

You want to determine your opinion of *how writers engage their readers* and then use the poem you chose to support your ideas.

The **first step** is to decide what your thoughts are. Use these questions/ideas to help you focus your response:

- How are you *engaged* as a reader? What grabs your *attention/interest*? What *details* and *vivid imagery*, etc.
- What *experiences and/or observations* have you had that *support your views*?

The **second step** is to choose the poem that contains those qualities/techniques and use it to support your opinion/ideas. Use these questions/ideas to help you focus your response:

- What *evidence* from the poem supports *your opinion*? What *details* and *vivid imagery*, etc?
- Refer to *specific lines* that are especially *significant*.

Exemplar:

For this exemplar, let's look at the poem "Nonconformist" from *Sightlines 10* page 31, as it fits best with the topic *how writers engage their readers*.

Writers engage readers by **connecting** with them and making them an active participant in the reading process through their use of **vivid imagery**, **details**, **word choice** and **style**. In the poem "Nonconformist", Angela Shelf Medearis does that by providing a visual snapshot of her thoughts on identity and being your own person. I could **identify with** her

thoughts and feelings as "I don't want to be anyone but myself". Her humorous style of writing; using the ironic ending, "I waited until someone else did it first", caught my attention as I love twists and surprises. I also liked the little "pause" where she added in parenthesis, "who am I?" as if all of a sudden she realises that she is like everyone else. Medearis also chooses words that create vivid images in my mind. I could immediately picture the "shaved little lines" and dyed purple and orange hair as well as the gold earring that "hung" from her pierced nose as I see people every day who experiment with hair styles, tattoos and piercings. Little details like "little lines", "gold earring" helped me to get an accurate picture of how she adorned herself. It made me stop and consider what I do to decorate myself and just how unique I am compared to others. I like to push the line a little and think I am expressing myself by being daring until I see someone who pushes even harder! It makes me laugh to think that I am no different than the person next to me so I do understand when Medearis says, "You know what I mean?"