



**ELA Virtual Learning**

# **English II**

**May 22, 2020**



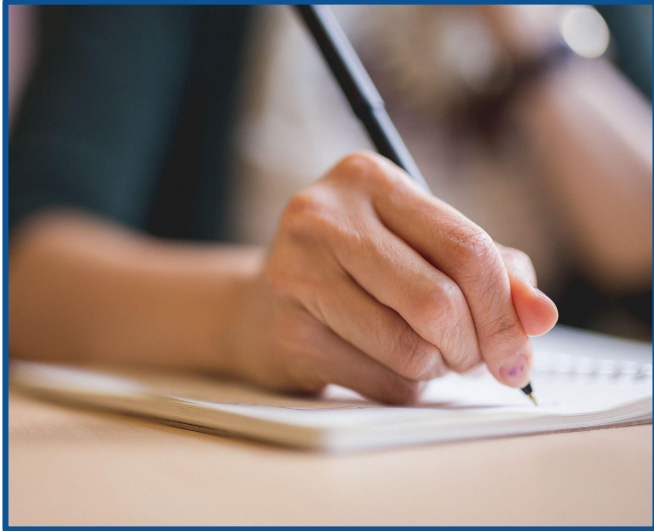
## English II

### Lesson: May 22, 2020

#### **Objective/Learning Target:**

- I can make inferences not explicitly mentioned in a text and support those inferences with textual evidence.
- I can analyze the overall impact of diction, syntax, mechanics, and theme on writing style.

# BELL RINGER



This week we have discussed different aspects of writing and how they play a role in determining an author's overall writing style.

**Consider the four aspects of writing discussed this week and answer the question below.**

- **Which of the four aspects of writing discussed this week (diction, syntax, mechanics, and theme) play the STRONGEST role within an author's writing style? Why?**

# MINI PROJECT OVERVIEW

Literary forensics is the scientific study of language in order to identify the author of an anonymous/disputed piece of writing. Literary forensics has been applied to settle plagiarism disputes as well as solve brutal crimes!



For this brief mini-project, students will take on the role of literary detective and our assigned the task determining the authorship of five anonymous poems.

In order to determine authorship, literary detectives focus on three main criteria: diction and syntax, themes, and mechanics. Today we will focus on using our analysis chart to make an **inference**.

## KEY TERMS

**Diction** is a fancy term for the words and phrases a writer chooses to use in a speech or piece of writing.

**Syntax** is a fancy term for the order of words and phrases a writer chooses to use in a speech or piece of writing.

**Mechanics**, when discussing writing, is a fancy term for the rules of a written language a writer must follow such as spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

**Theme**, as covered in prior lessons, is a term for the topic a writer is discussing in their work as well as their specific viewpoint or stance on that topic.

**Writing style** is a series of techniques and choices a writer tends to make in their writing to form a particular “voice” unique to them.





## PRACTICE

Now that we have reviewed some components of writing style, let's practice with the same five anonymous poems from this week.

Use the information from slides 4 & 5 and your analysis charts (for diction, syntax, mechanics, and theme) from earlier this week (linked [here](#)) and answer the question below.

- *Using your analysis charts, determine whether these five poems are authored by **one, two, or three different writers**. Which component had the strongest evidence in factoring in your decision? Explain.*

# PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

Text #	Diction	Syntax	Mechanics	Theme
1	carry, moon, root, heart, sky, tree, grows	Longest: 57 words. Shortest: 11 words. Uses a lot of parenthetical phrases.	No Caps.. Use semicolons (;), colons (:), and parenthesis [()] frequently.	Love and how two people in love are always with each other even when they are physically a part.
2	heart, pain, nerves, freezing, chill, ceremonious, tomb, mechanical, wooden, quartz, lead	Longest: 17 words. Shortest: 5 words. Uses fronted subordinate clauses and parenthetical adverbs.	Capitalizes many words that aren't proper nouns and often uses dashes (–) as a period.	Loss and how after hearing such tragic news we fall into shock or become numb.
3	heart, eyes, sky, meadow, mountains, morning, stars, forests, split, strike	Longest 27 words. Shortest: 3 words. Average: 12 words. Uses a couple fronted subordinate clauses.	Capitalizes many words that aren't proper nouns and often uses dashes (–) as a period.	Sight and all the world has to offer.
4	civilization, wish, wish, whisk, flint, spark, smoke, smoulder, burn, chimney	Longest: 47 words: Shortest: 6 words. Drastic differences in sentence length within the same	Uses dashes (–) as a period but lacks the unusual use of punctuation and capitalization from texts 1, 2, 3, or 5.	Love and how love can sometimes be lopsided or unrequired.
5	eyes, petal, roses, spring, fragility, frail, perceive	Longest: 54 words. Shortest: 30 words. Uses parenthetical phrases.	No caps. Use semicolons (;), colons (:), and parenthesis [()] frequently.	Love and how fragile it can be.



# PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

- **Check your answer to make sure your response meets the following criteria:**
  - **Did you write in complete sentences and answer the questions?**
  - **Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?**
  - **Did you provide a claim, evidence, and explanation?**
  - **Did you provide an in-text citation?**



# PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

*Using your analysis charts, determine whether these five poems are authored by **one, two, or three different writers**. Which component had the strongest evidence in factoring in your decision? Explain.*



**Claim**



**Evidence**



**Explanation**

These five anonymous poems are written by three different authors due to strong similarities identified in their mechanics. Poems #1 and #5 begin “i carry your heart” (cumings, line 1) and “somewhere i have never traveled” (cumings, line 1) while poems #2 and #3 contain lines such as “I tell you that my Heart / would split” (Dickinson, line 7-8) and “the Nerves sit ceremonious, like Tombs” (Dickinson, line 2). The lack of capitalized words in the first pair suggest they are by the same author, most likely e.e. cumming where the second pair has excessive capitalization suggesting it is by another author, most likely Emily Dickinson. Poem #4 is by a third author having a much more conventional approach to capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Literary Forensics

- [Forensic Linguistic Profiling & What Your Language Reveals About You | Harry Bradford | TEDxStoke](#)

## Inferences

- [Making Inferences in Literary Text \(Khan Academy\)](#)



# REFLECTION

Today's learning targets are listed below:

- 1. I can make inferences not explicitly mentioned in a text and support those inferences with textual evidence.**
- 2. I can analyze the overall impact of diction, syntax, mechanics, and theme on writing style.**

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with each of today's learning targets? What did you struggle on? What did you understand the best?

**1 = I still need to work on it**  
**5 = I know I've mastered it!**