

Individual Oral Commentary Step by Step Process

Before you begin:

1. Read through your passage and work out what's going on and where it occurs in the text. Knowing the text well will really help here. You should also think about how this develops characters, ideas or wider themes in the text or in other poems by the same poet. Decide on a number of Organising Principles for your poem or extract. These are the key ideas that sum up what it is going on in that passage.
2. Read through your passage a second time . this time track it in detail. Look for how the author has established each organising principle by using a variety of literary features e.g. . the connotations of words, sounds, structures, images, symbols, linguistic / paralinguistic features, etc ò Also look for any repeated motifs / themes that have been running through the text.
3. You can also track other points which do not directly relate to the Organising Principle but about which you have something interesting to say.

Presenting your oral:

~1 minute

1. Explain, **very briefly**, what is going on in this extract.
2. Put this extract into context:
 - If it is part of a novel or a play then what happened just before, what happens just after, how does this extract help develop the characters, plot, tension, themes, relationships, ideas, etc ò that have been running through the text
 - If it is a poem then explain how it fits in with other poems by the same author.
 - Is there anything about the cultural context of the time that is **relevant**

~9 minutes

3. Introduce your Organising Principles and analyse the text to show how they have been created. This will be the main section of your oral!!
4. Most of the points in your oral should be related back to your Organising Principles. That is why it is important to choose Organising Principles that are complex and interesting enough to talk about for a long time. However don't robotically refer back to them at the end of every point you make e.g. ~~And this again refers back to my Organising Principle~~ ò q
5. Make sure that you use your Organising Principles to structure your oral. Say everything you have about one and then **very explicitly** move on to the next Organising Principle.
6. Remember to follow the PEE structure:
 - Make your **Point** . *'Shakespeare is creating a sense of division between Shylock and Antonio and Bassanio'*
 - Give your **Evidence** . *Shylock's aside, aggressive dialogue, rapid punctuation*
 - Explain how this relates to the OP . *Shakespeare reinforces this sense of division between the three characters on stage most noticeably during Shylock's Aside which pulls him out of the stage world inhabited by the other two characters and into the world of the audience, clearly underlining his separation from the two chief protagonists.*
7. While analyzing you might like to compare this extract with other areas of the same text (or poems by the same poet) . e.g. how has a character / theme / relationship changed at this point compared to what it was earlier in the text (or in other poems)? However, remember that your main focus should always be on the section you have been given.

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8. Add any other points that you have noticed which may not directly relate to the O.P. but are still interesting.
9. Try to conclude by finding a quotation that encapsulates or sums up the *flavour* of the whole extract or by looking forward to how this scene helps prepare for what will happen in the rest of the play (e.g. through development of character, plot, tension, etc ò) or how this poem exemplifies (or differs from) the poet's usual themes.