**Connotation/Poetic Devices Paragraph Sample**

**TS: Identify what kind of meaning do you get from the connotation of the poem.**

The poetic devices in Louis Simpson’s poem “The Battle” enhance the dreadful situation of the soldiers who battled in bitter cold weather. Simpson’s use of alliteration when the soldiers “[felt] the first snow [, and] their feet began to freeze”(Simpson 8), captures the cold feeling of the soldiers. This “f” sound mimics the sound that freezing soldiers would stutter. It is not a smooth pleasant consonant sound to be repeated; rather, its harshness captures that winter frigidity. Another sound device, onomatopoeia captures the sounds of the battle where “guns thudded” (3) and shells “crack” (9). These sounds add to the harsh atmosphere of the scene. These sounds exemplify the negative effect battles have on soldier’s lives. The personification of the “helmet and rifle, pack and overcoat [marching]” (1) and the simile of the soldiers “[sinking] like moles” (5) into the earth enhance the dehumanization of the soldiers within war. Simpson’s use of these devices shows how the soldiers have become like animals who are just trying to survive. They have been reduced to the objects they wear instead of showing their faces and feelings. “The Battle” by Louis Simpson exemplifies the theme that battle destroys soldiers’ lives and that war changes the landscape of the environment around soldiers.

**CM: explain the feeling you get from the *wording* in the quote, not the device. Explain what it helps you understand about the poem and how the author feels about the topic.**

**CD: name the poetic device in the context *before* the quote. Quote a short, powerful phrase.**