Tips for explaining yourself well

1. Always write statements. Questions are bad, aren’t they?
2. Past tense is so yesterday, always use the present.
3. **Prepositions** [locator words] are not words to end sentences with.
4. Keep sentences short. Don’t use more words than necessary; don’t be redundant, it’s highly superfluous.
5. Use the vernacular.
6. Know the difference; their, there, they’re – it’s and its – you, your, you’re.

They’re over there and I stole their lacrosse balls.

1. Contractions aren’t necessary.
2. Quotes require an introduction.
3. Use Quotes only when they strengthen your point. Always explain their importance.
4. Avoid clichés
5. Use transitions
6. Don’t over use transitions
7. Identify your pronouns, that is really important for them.
8. A subject, verb and object make a sentence. Don’t?
9. You must cite your quotes. “Important, it is”(Yoda).

#8

For example,

For instance,

As \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ says,

Similarly, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ says,

The speaker [narrator/character] explains,

In contrast,

He suggests,

He signifies,

He shows,

She states,

She expresses,

He proposes,

He stipulates,

She claims,

She points out,

**How to write a good paragraph about a poem**

1. Begin your paragraph: In Author’s name “Title of the poem.”
2. State the point of your paragraph
3. Find examples from the work that support your point
4. Explain yourself
5. Repeat [Once or Twice] until you have explained fully.

Get the habit of analysis - analysis will in time enable synthesis to become your habit of mind.   
[Frank Lloyd Wright](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/f/frank_lloyd_wright.html)

John Donne’s “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning,” speaks of a type of spiritual love that is not slowed by distance, time and mortality.

In the opening stanza, the speaker symbolizes this timeless love by comparing it to the deaths of “virtuous men pass[ing] mildly away.”

The lives of these “virtuous men” symbolize the timelessness of love.

Though, some sad friends lament the passing of these men, saying “no” as if to protest the injustice of the death of such virtue, the deaths of these men remain virtuous.

These men become immortalized, living as an idea in the minds of those that have loved them.

In this way, the speaker equates the passing of such “virtuous men” with that of the undying love that two lovers experience.

Like the dying virtuous men, the lovers’ affections will be tested, but will prevail against any odd.

For example, the speaker explains that mortal physical contact is not necessary for their love to prevail:

But we by a love so much refined,

that ourselves know not what it is,

Inter-assured of the mind,

Care less, eyes, lips and hands to miss. (17-20)

For the speaker, the mortal love that he experiences gives way to the more important spiritual connection he feels toward his partner.

The speaker’s “inter-assured…mind,” speaks to his deep connection with his partner.

For the speaker, the connection is so strong it grounds him. It provides a “stiff twin compass” to direct himself through life.

The speaker ends by symbolizing his voyage, the timelessness of his relationship and the loyalty of his partner, “thy firmness makes my circle just,/ And makes me end where I begun.”

Similar to the speaker’s emphasis of dying virtuous men, this final rhyming couplet uses the circle image to reference his love’s ability to transcend any obstacle.

In essence, the poem comes “full circle” to describe the infinite and eternal power of spiritual love.

In addition, the poem’s simple “ABAB” structure

As its title suggests, the opening stanza of this poem promises a transcendental farewell.

immortalizes the poem’s theme.

The speaker explains that he must spend time away from his lover and