

HOOKS & BRIDGES IN WRITING: RESPONSE TO LITERATURE

Sample Topic: Critical Response – The Purloined Letter

Claim: It was clearly obvious that the Prefect of Police wrote the love letter that was stolen from the Queen.

1. Question

Hook: Who wrote the stolen letter?

Bridge (Connecting Sentence): Most readers try to solve this question as they read Edgar Allan Poe's *The Purloined Letter*.

2. Shocking Fact (Writing Tip: Find an unusual fact that most people will not know.)

Hook: Back in the 16th century, if any of his wives cheated on him, King Henry would have them beheaded.

Bridge (Connecting Sentence): In Edgar Allan Poe's, *The Purloined Letter*, this almost happened to the Queen and the Prefect of Police.

3. Hyperbole - exaggeration

Hook: The queen, who had her love letter stolen, felt a sudden, sharp pain go through her neck.

Bridge: In Edgar Allan Poe's *The Purloined Letter*, her royal highness, at the time she realized her letter was stolen, imagined what would happen if the King found out about her affair.

4. Simile/Metaphor - comparison

Hook: Stealing a royal love letter is like winning the lottery.

Bridge: In Edgar Allan Poe's *The Purloined Letter*, Minister D steals a love letter from the Queen's chambers and uses it to gain political control. In other words, he is blackmailing both the Queen and her lover, the Prefect of Police

5. Scenario/Anecdote – a story that sets the scene for essay (Be original!)

Hook: Imagine that you are having an affair and the letter that you wrote to your lover has been stolen.

Bridge (Connecting Sentence): Edgar Allan Poe develops this same scenario in his famous detective story, *The Purloined Letter*.

6. Fragment – a listing of two or three fragments followed by a strong statement.

Hook: Love. Theft. Blackmail.

Bridge (Connecting Sentence): In Edgar Allan Poe's *The Purloined Letter*, the Prefect of Police is forced to find a love letter that is stolen from the Queen.

Hook: Mysterious. Complicated. Sneaky.

Bridge (Connecting Sentence): In Edgar Allan Poe's *The Purloined Letter*, the Prefect of Police deals with these emotions as he is forced to find a love letter that is stolen from the Queen.

7. Famous Quotation/Important Quote from the Text

Hook: "The fact is that my honor depends on solving this problem."

Bridge (Connecting Sentence): In Edgar Allan Poe's *The Purloined Letter*, the Prefect of Police must find a love letter that is stolen from the Queen.