

## CIRCLE DIAGRAM FOR EVALUATION ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

This is the outline for your essay in graphic organizer form. It is simply meant to help you to organize your essay by giving you an opportunity to get the main ideas on paper. You will use it to write your essay later.

1. **How to fill in the FIRST CIRCLE.** Decide what your opinion or judgment of the reading/s is. That opinion should be a SIMPLE, CONCISE sentence. No details should be included, but the judgment should still be particular to the subject you are studying. A good opinion or judgment: “The poem, ‘Yellow Woman’ by Genny Lim lacks verbal power supported by poetic devices.” Or: “ ‘Yellow Woman’ and ‘Corrosion’ are both excellent examples of women dealing with complex issues of race.” A bad answer: “ ‘Yellow Woman’ is a boring poem.”

**Put your opinion or judgment in the top circle. This is your THESIS STATEMENT.**

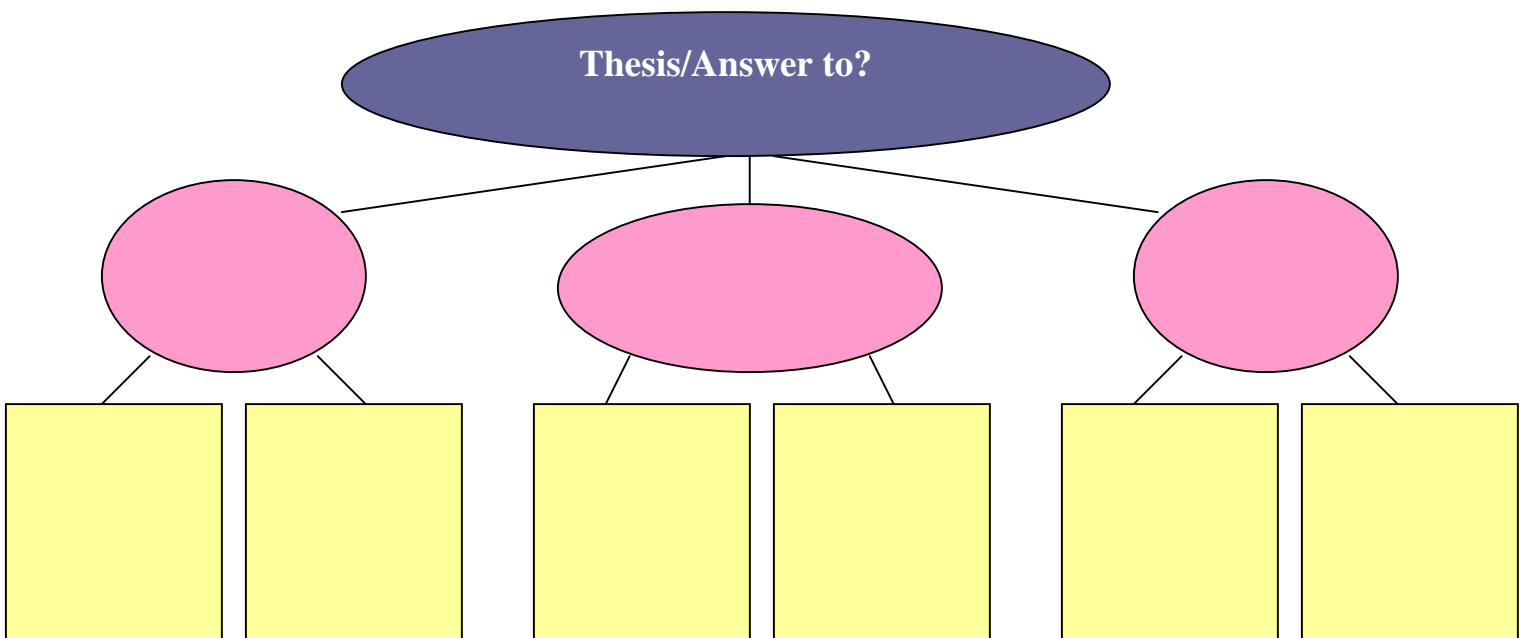
2. **How to fill in the SECOND LEVEL OF CIRCLES.** The second level of circles are the reasons you believe your opinion is true. You must have at least three reasons that directly support your thesis statement and include the CRITERIA you have established for discussing poetry or any piece of writing. Some examples that support the first thesis statement above may be:

First Circle: Genny Lim’s choice of words, although somewhat creative, do not evoke IMAGES in the reader’s mind.

Second Circle: Her choice of Asian stereotypes as THEMES are typical, but do not lend themselves to any new way of thinking about Chinese immigrants.

Third Circle: The LINE BREAKS only add clutter to the poem, undermining what could be a clearer message or theme.

3. **How to fill in the BOXES.** This is the easiest part, the evidence that supports your reasons! You go through your readings and find direct quotes (no editing or changing any of the words) that prove your second level of circles. Just write in the quote and make sure to note where you found it. Remember: the quote should be short! A good quote is usually one or two sentences/ideas at the most. You must have at least two quotes (two pieces of evidence from the readings) for every reason you give in the second level of circles.



**Now you are ready to write your paper!**