

Question: How is a selection of Anne Sexton's poems representative of the Confessional Movement of the 1960's?

Thesis: A selection of Anne Sexton's poetry is largely representative of the Confessional Movement.

I. **Introduction:**

Introduce the Confessional Movement and Anne Sexton. State the research question. Talk about why you chose this topic and why it is worthy of study. Briefly talk about what poems you will discuss and why.

300 words.

II. **Intro to Confessional Movement:**

I.e. The Confessional Movement of the 1960's was a style of writing that emerged in the 1950's and early 1960's. It was a period wherein writers expanded the scope of what they communicated in their works and began producing writing that expressed experiences and opinions that were extremely personal, private and honest... etc.

500 words.

III. **"Housewife" as representative of the Confessional Movement in its portrayal of a housewife as someone trapped or engaged.**

Aspects of the Confessional Movement can be interpreted in Anne Sexton's "Housewife".

A. Start with a quote that is most relevant.

*"See how she sits on her knees all day,
faithfully washing herself down."*

B. In-depth analysis of the poem should make up most of this section (this has already been done on my "EE Works Cited Page" and simply needs to be put into full sentences). With the analysis, focus should primarily be on aspects of the poem that are indicative of confessionalism. Mention how Anne's personal experiences are demonstrated in the poem.

C. Analysis should also be provided by 1-3 outside sources, supporting my own analysis.

1. Karen Alkalay-Gut offers her analysis of "Housewife" [here](#).

2. Clare Pollard reflects on Anne's views of the role of women and housewives [here](#).

D. Tie it all together by relating it back to the thesis:

I.e. In this way, Anne Sexton's "Housewife" is representative of the Confessional Movement.

600 - 800 words.

IV. **"The Addict" is representative of the Confessional Movement in terms of its communication about drugs and drug abuse.**

Aspects of the Confessional Movement are evident in Sexton's "The Addict".

A. Start with the quote that is most relevant.

*"I like them more than I like me.
It's a kind of marriage.
It's a kind of war where I plant bombs inside
of myself."*

B. Analyze this poem, like before, focusing on the aspects that show most how it is indicative of the Confessional Movement. Include Anne's drug addiction to help support the idea that it is very personal and private.

C. Support my own analysis with outside sources.

1. Maria Carmela Coco Davani provides a short analysis of “The Addict”, relating it to a bigger picture of Anne’s approach to death, [here](#).

D. Tie it all together and relate it back to the thesis.

i.e. In this way, Anne Sexton’s “The Addict” is representative of the Confessional Movement.

600 - 800 words.

V. “Bayonet” is representative of the Confessional Movement in its very graphic and honest description of why and how a weapon will be used violently.

Aspects of the Confessional Movement are evident in Sexton’s “Bayonet”.

A. Begin with quote that is most relevant.

*“I was curled fetally
and yet I held a bayonet
that was for the earth of your stomach.”*

B. Provide analysis of the poem, including information about who this poem may be about i.e. past relationships. Demonstrate how it is indicative of the Confessional Movement, in its sharing to an audience a relationship that may have been scarring to her.

C. Support this analysis with other sources, including sources that perhaps talk about Sexton’s relationships.

1. A biography of Anne Sexton, including her family life, can be found [here](#).

D. Relate back to the question.

600 - 800 words.

VI. “Barefoot” is representative of the Confessional Movement in that it, without reserve, makes reference to sex from the perspective of a seductive woman.

Aspects of the Confessional Movement are evident in Sexton’s “Barefoot”.

A. Begin with a quote that’s most indicative of the Confessional Movement.

*“Now you grab me by the ankles.
Now you work your way up the legs
and come to pierce me at my hunger mark”*

B. Offer analysis of this poem based on Anne’s views about sex, seduction, feminism and women.

C. Support my own analysis with analysis from external sources - be sure to have information about how sex was viewed, as well as the role of women, during this time period (also the sexual revolution / hippie movement in the 60’s).

1. A chapter of a book on the civil war in America that includes information about role of women is provided by Maurice Isserman and Michael Kazin [here](#).

2. Lina Salete Chaves writes about the sexual revolution and liberalisation of women in the 1960’s [here](#).

D. Relate back to the question ... i.e. In this way, Anne Sexton’s “Barefoot” is indicative of the Confessional Movement.

600 - 800 words.

VII. Conclusion

Restate the research question. Answer the question / restate the thesis (although this should also be done after every poem analysis). Summarize the Confessional Movement and how Anne’s poems are indicative of the movement. All in all, summarize the intro in somewhat different words.