The following passage is from the Soto poem on 2663 (don’t look in your packet yet!)

I came here because I was Mexican, a stick
Of brown light in love with those
Who cold do it – the triple and hard slide,
The gloves eating balls into double plays.
What could I do with 50 pounds, my shyness,
My black torch of hair, about to go out?

Below write some observations about the diction (word choice) and syntax (arrangement of the words) of the passage above. It may help to think about the following questions: Are there particular words that stand out, as being particularly poetic (or, conversely, vulgar) for their context? Are there words or phrases which contradict one another, or seem to imply the opposite of what they’re saying? What rules of grammar are being used (or broken) in your chosen passage?

Now look in the text for the context of the above passage. What is the purpose of this excerpt in the poem? Is it similar or different from what comes before/after it?

Lastly, draw some more general conclusions about the passage you’ve analyzed – in other words, link it to some of the larger themes or strategies employed throughout this particular poem.