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Analytical Essay

Analytical Essay

- The goal of this essay is to analyze, critique, and interpret a situation, event, or work of art. It does this by presenting an argument or claim focusing on how the piece was written or how certain themes appear. Often follows a five-paragraph format.

Questions to consider:

- **Who**
 - Who will read this essay?
- **What**
 - What will this essay analyze (an event, text, artwork, or policy)?
 - What will this essay prove? What key questions will it answer?
- **When**
 - When did this event occur and why does that timing matter?
- **Why**
 - Why is this analysis important? Why should the reader care?

How to Write an Analytical Essay

- **Choose a Topic**
 - Select a situation, event, or work of art to interpret or analyze.
- **Develop a Main Argument**
 - State your main argument in a thesis statement.
- **Analyze, Don't Summarize**
 - Focus on how and why things happen rather than retelling the event.
- **Provide Evidence**
 - Back up your thesis with evidence such as quotes, data, and research to support your claims.
- **Conclude Strongly**
 - Restate your thesis in new words, show why your analysis matters, and explain why readers should care.
- **Introduction** (1 paragraph)
 - Introduce the purpose of the essay.
 - Provide the title and the author of the piece being analyzed.
 - End the paragraph with the thesis statement.
 - **Thesis Statement:** A single, clear sentence that expresses the main argument or central claim of the essay.



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- **Body Paragraphs** (3 paragraphs)
 - Start each with a topic sentence that connects to the thesis statement.
 - Support your claims with direct quotes and examples.
 - Analyze by explaining why the author wrote what they did and how it contributes to the overall work.
 - Explain how each example supports the thesis and why it strengthens the argument.
 - Show how the examples fit with the main idea (thesis) and why your analysis is necessary.
 - Avoid retelling the story or interpreting the plot unless necessary to support a claim.
- **Conclusion** (1 paragraph)
 - Restate the thesis to emphasize the essay's purpose.
 - Provide an analytical summary of the main points.
 - Explain why these points are significant.
 - Conclude by showing how the audience should be affected by this analysis.
Answering the key “Who, What, When, and Why” questions.

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Analytical Essay One Page Outline

Title:

General Argument:

Specific Argument:

Thesis Statement:

INTRODUCTION

- Attract the reader's attention:
- Brief Background Information:
- Thesis Statement:
- Transition Sentence into the body:

BODY

Paragraph 1

- Topic Sentence 1:
- Supporting Evidence (quote):
- Text Analysis (explain how/why this supports the thesis):
 - How:
 - Why:
- Transition sentence to paragraph 2:

Paragraph 2

- Topic Sentence 2:
- Supporting Evidence:
- Text Analysis (explain how/why this supports the thesis):
 - How:
 - Why:

Transition sentence to paragraph 3:

Paragraph 3

- Topic Sentence 3:
- Supporting Evidence:
- Text Analysis (explain how/why this supports the thesis):
 - How:
 - Why:
- Transition sentence to conclusion:

Repeat paragraph steps as needed

CONCLUSION

- Rephrase the thesis in new words:
- Explain how your evidence connects to the thesis:
- Summarize your argument:
- Why does this matter to the reader:



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Analytical Essay Editable Outline

TITLE:

GENERAL PURPOSE:

SPECIFIC PURPOSE:

THESIS STATEMENT:

INTRODUCTION

Attract the reader's attention:

Brief Background Information:

Thesis Statement:

Transition Sentence into the body:

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BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Topic Sentence 1:

Supporting Evidence (quote):

Text Analysis (explain how/why this supports the thesis):

- **How:**

- **Why:**

Transition sentence to paragraph 2:

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

Topic Sentence 2:

Supporting Evidence (quote):

Text Analysis (explain how/why this supports the thesis):

- **How:**

- **Why:**

Transition sentence to paragraph 3:

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BODY PARAGRAPH 3

Topic Sentence 1:

Supporting Evidence (quote):

Text Analysis (explain how/why this supports the thesis):

- **How:**

- **Why:**

Transition sentence to conclusion:

CONCLUSION

Rephrase the thesis in new words:

Summary of Main Points (one to two sentences summarizing main points):

Why does this matter to the reader:

Closing Statement:



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References

Kidwell, D. (2022, September 26). *Excellent Analytical Essay Writing Guide*. EduBirdie.
<https://edubirdie.com/blog/how-to-write-analytical-essay>

Stetson University Writing Center. (n.d.). *Guide to Writing an Analytical Essay*. Stetson University. Retrieved from <https://www.stetson.edu/other/writing-center/media/Handout%20-%20Analytical%20Essay.pdf>