

APSU Writing Center
Analytical Essay

What is an Analytical Essay?

An analytical essay aims to analyze a text and:

- Interpret the deeper meanings or themes
- Evaluate the author's choices
- Present a clear thesis
- Support the claim with evidence and explanation
- Explain the significance of the analysis

Questions to guide the analysis:

- Who is the intended audience?
- What will be analyzed in this essay?
- What will the essay claim?
- When did the text or event being analyzed occur?
- Why is this essay analysis important?

How to Write an Analytical Essay

- Select a specific aspect of the topic chosen to analyze
- Write a thesis statement that answers what your analysis proves and why it matters
- Explain how and why things happen instead of retelling events
- Support your analysis with evidence such as quotes, data, examples, and other research
- Conclude by stating your thesis a new way and summarizing key analytical points

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Introduction

An introduction should:

- Introduce the topic and purpose of the essay
- Provide the background information such as author and title of the work being analyzed
- Include a clear thesis statement sentence that expresses the main argument of the essay

Body Paragraphs

Each paragraph should include:

- A topic sentence that connects this paragraph to the thesis
- Support for the thesis in form of examples such as direct quotes and evidence
- Analysis that explains why and how the information included connects to the thesis
- Explanation on why this analysis matters

Avoid retelling the story or event unless it directly supports the argument.

Conclusion

The conclusion should:

- Restate the thesis in new words
- Provide a summary of the main analytical points in the essay
- Explain why these points are significant

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Analytical Essay Outline

Introduction: Introduce the topic and present an arguable thesis statement that establishes the main claim:

Body Paragraph 1: Present a strong topic sentence. Include evidence and analysis that explains how and why it supports the thesis:

Body Paragraph 2: Develop a second key point with evidence and analysis. Show its significance and connection to the thesis:

Body Paragraph 3: Present a third supporting point with evidence and analysis. Explain how it strengthens your overall argument:

Conclusion: Restate the thesis in new wording and summarize the main analytical points and explain why your argument matters:



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References

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