

## **Analytical Essay**

### **APSU Writing Center Handout**

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

#### **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

**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:

## References

Kidwell, D. (2022, September 26). *Excellent Analytical Essay Writing Guide*. Edu Birdie.

<https://edubirdie.com/blog/how-to-write-analytical-essay>

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