

TRACKING CRITICAL / ACTIVE READING

title/graphics meaning/interpretation

interesting/poignant lines supporting themes (literary) or arguments/ideas (non-fiction)

words/terminology

main themes (literary) or arguments/ideas (non-fiction)

tone w/ lines to support

minor or supporting themes (literary) or supporting arguments/reasons (non-fiction)

colourful language

connections to other media texts/
personal experience

symbols/allusions

Writing an Analytical Paragraph using Quotes

Below is a paragraph template of how to incorporate and analyse texts using direct quotes. Example paragraph parts are in italics.

State It. Clearly state the topic of the paragraph in 1-2 sentences, for example:

Our world is overly obsessed with the fictitious ideal of perfection.

Introduce It. Clearly introduce textual evidence (quotes, passages) that will be used, for example:

Nalo Hopkinson's short story, A Habit of Waste, comments on this over-obsession by depicting a near-future world where individuals can download perfection and where it like a new pair of underwear.

Prove It. Provide textual evidence to prove the topic of your paragraph.

fill in with textual evidence from the story

Explain It. Examine/analyze/explain how the evidence relates/proves the topic, for example:

Although writing about a near-future dystopic society, Hopkinson is clearly criticizing the current trends in media and lifestyle fixations. The infomercials that target our desire for the perfect physique or face, the tabloid magazines that educate us about which celebrity looks perfect in a swimsuit, or the store window displays that seem to change fashion “necessity” almost over-night, all create a sense that perfection is within our grasp. If you have the money. Or the credit. Hopkinson is not comfortable with this promise of a fast-food make-over because it is not creating a confident culture, rather, it is magnifying fears and insecurities of the citizenry. Hopkinson is arguing that, ironically, the promise of perfection is creating greater imperfection.

Conclude It. Conclude the paragraph by connecting the last thought to the first thought, for example:

Perfection is simply “perfection”.

