

PREPARING FOR AN ANALYTIC ESSAY

1. Think critically about what you know - from personal experience - and what you've learned - from texts and discussions - about the topic and argument (point of analysis).
2. Make quick notes that detail all that you already know and have learned.
3. Collect proofs. Identify quotes (direct textual evidence) and passages that reflect the topic or argument. This may be a time-consuming task, but it is essential and extremely worthwhile.
4. The collection of quotes and passages may be large, but this allows you to pick and choose when you need to "PROVE IT".
5. Use your collection of quotes.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ANALYTIC BODY PARAGRAPH

When you think body paragraph, think 'mini essay'.

TOPIC SENTENCE: introduces the topic/argument of the paragraph and guides the direction of the paragraph's content. The topic sentence reflects 'proof' of the thesis. *What do you want to prove?*

STATE IT. Always written in 'your own words'. Introduces evidence or support that will be used to prove thesis and reflect topic of the paragraph. *What are some general ideas about the topic? What evidence/proof will be introduced?*

PROVE IT. Hard evidence from text, either in the form of a direct quotation from the text (word-for-word) or in the form of an example (in your own words, but still acknowledged). This component adds strength to your thesis.

EXPLAIN IT. Explain how &/or why your proof helps to support your thesis. This is an essential component as it shows how the evidence supports the theory/argument THE WAY YOU INTERPRET IT. Without it, the evidence may be interpreted differently. *What does the quote/proof mean? How does proof prove topic/argument?*

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: wraps up the ideas expressed in the paragraph. *What is a new and interesting way to reword the topic sentence?*

PRACTICE ANALYTIC WRITING

After viewing the documentary, Orwell Rolls in His Grave, work with a partner to construct and organize a solid analytic paragraph. Fill in the chart with original ideas. Use the sentence patterns identified to construct your sentences.

paragraph part	focus question	original writing
TOPIC SENTENCE: introduces the topic/argument of the paragraph and guides the direction of the paragraph's content. The topic sentence reflects 'proof' of the thesis.	<i>What do you want to prove?</i>	<insert a powerful SIMPLE SENTENCE>
STATE IT. Always written in 'your own words'. Introduces evidence or support that will be used to prove thesis and reflect topic of the paragraph.	<i>What are some general ideas about the topic? What evidence/proof will be introduced?</i>	<insert a SIMPLE SENTENCE> The mass media has inhibited the voices of "citizens" or those outside of the "corporate machine" and have relegated those voices to the insignificant and disreputable trash-heap. The filmmaker, Robert Kane Pappas, states provocatively and metaphorically in his documentary, <u>Orwell Rolls in His Grave</u> , that,
PROVE IT. Hard evidence from text, either in the form of a direct quotation from the text (word-for-word) or in the form of an example (in your own words, but still acknowledged). This component adds strength to your thesis.		"Over the years I had descended into the third world of independent film,"
EXPLAIN IT. Explain how &/or why your proof helps to support your thesis. This is an essential component as it shows how the evidence supports the theory/argument THE WAY YOU INTERPRET IT. Without it, the evidence may be interpreted differently.	<i>What does the quote/proof mean? How does proof prove topic/argument?</i>	<insert a powerful SIMPLE sentence> <insert a COMPOUND sentence> <insert a BALANCED or ANTITHESIS sentence>
CONCLUDING SENTENCE: wraps up the ideas expressed in the paragraph.	<i>What is a new and interesting way to reword the topic sentence?</i>	<insert an ANAPHORA sentence>