

Analytical Essay Outline

Most analytical essays or response-to-literature essays are 4-5 paragraphs. They contain an introduction, two-three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The following format is a recommended approach to writing this kind of essay, but it is not the only method. After getting the basics under one's belt, one might want to take the basic structure and expand with more individualistic techniques.

I. Introduction

- A. Introduce Author and Title of work**
- B. Provide a concise summary of main characters, plot and summary as they relate to the thesis.**
- C. Provide a thesis statement.**

II-IV. Body Paragraphs

- A. Each Body Paragraph should contain a topic sentence that supports some aspect of your thesis.**
- B. Introduction to quotation that provides context and a quotation that is evidence for your topic sentence.**
- C. Translate or restate the quotation in your own words to match your argument.**
- D. Analyze the quotation for meaning. Draw connections from themes, character and conflict. Isolate particular language to connect to topic sentence. *Try not to repeat the same thing over and over. Try not to draw a conclusion that you have not broken down step by step.***
- E. Draw a conclusion that finishes analysis and brings in language from thesis statement. More advanced writers will create a bridge between paragraphs, stating how each idea is ultimately connected and why the order of evidence is as such.**

V. Conclusion