

Analytical Essay

What is an analytical essay?

An analytical essay analyses all aspects of a topic or question that has been posed. The writer presents evidence for and against a statement (or contention), concluding with a clear statement in light of the evidence presented. Analytical essays explore ideas about a topic or text and are commonly written by secondary students in response to a set question or a statement to discuss or analyse.

Voice

Analytical essays are mainly written in third person (it, its, he, she, him, her, his, they, them, their). Can have use of 'we see' as first person where appropriate to the analysis.

Language & Grammar

- Formal, impersonal language.
- Specialised language relating to the topic.
- Use of complex and compound sentences.
- Integrates quotes and examples into sentences as evidence in TEEL or TEAL paragraphs.
- Contractions, slang and abbreviations are not used.
- Past tense action verbs to retell events or summarise (eg. explored, rejected, experienced, displayed).
- Mostly uses a blend of past, present and future tenses as appropriate.

Structure and Organisation

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifies key terms• States essay contention (shows position in response to statement or question)• Shows order of body paragraphs (can be explicitly stated main points)• Concludes with a linking sentence to the first body paragraph
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use TEEL or TEAL format for paragraph construction:<ul style="list-style-type: none">T: Paragraphs begin with a clear topic sentenceE: State the exampleE: Explain / analyse the example and how it shows the main argument, giving more evidence during the analysisL: Link the argument back to the contention or forward to the next body paragraph
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can begin with 'In conclusion'• Refers to and recaps contention, summing up main points• Ends with a strong statement – could be a quote or a main idea

Exemplar Years 7 – 9

Exemplar Years 10 – 12