

How to Improve Your “Analysis/Analytical Commentary”

Strive for at least 2
sentences of analytical
commentary per
example.

AP Rubric

- “Commentary explains the significance and relevance of evidence in relation to a line of reasoning.”
- “Explains how rhetorical choices in the passage contributes to the writer’s argument, purpose, or message.”
- “Explain how evidence supports a line of reasoning.”

EXAMINE THE IMPORTANCE

RELATE TO THE RHETORICAL SITUATION

CONNECT TO YOUR CLAIM

EXAMINE THE IMPORTANCE

Questions to ask:

- What is the example stating?
- How is this choice seen in this example?
- What effect is produced by this example?
- Why would the writer make this choice? How would the piece be different and possibly less effective if the choice wasn't made?
- Why is this an effective choice? Why is it so important to the piece?
- How does this example or choice build upon previous examples?*

RELATE TO THE RHETORICAL SITUATION

Questions to ask:

- How is this persuasive to the audience?
- What does this reveal about the speaker?
- What does this suggest about why the writer has composed this piece?
- In what way does this example reflect the time period in which it was written?
- How does this help the writer achieve his/her purpose?
- What does this example reveal about the message/argument?

CONNECT TO YOUR CLAIM

Questions to ask:

- In what way does this example relate to what I'm arguing in my topic sentence? How does this connect to my claim?
- What is the main idea of this example? How does this relate to the main idea of the paragraph?
- What does this suggest about the subject matter in my claim? In what way does it present a deeper look at the subject matter?

Analytical Commentary highlighted in yellow

SAMPLE A

Gandhi's rhetorical tactics place the blame onto the British. When he continually reassures them of his nonviolence, he is demonstrating that the Indians are not going to act violently, thereby indirectly asking the British if they too will follow the Indians. He uses phrases such as "unless the British nation...retraces its steps" and "if the British commerce with India is purified of greed." These statements are Gandhi's way of placing responsibility on to the British. They evoke the sense that the violence and conflict are the British's fault not the Indians. In this way, Gandhi leaves it to the British to decide whether they want to stop their actions, thereby evoking a sense of guilt and responsibility in the British. These methods serve Gandhi's purpose of asking the British to revise their laws without outrightly asking. His methods make the British the aggressors and, in this way, makes the British consider their position more fully.

RHETORICAL
SITUATION



CONNECT
TO CLAIM



EXAMINE THE
IMPORTANCE

