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# What is the structure of an analytical essay

Posted: 31 May, 2017 Analytical essays are some of the most common essays assigned at college. You may have even written one before, without even knowing it. Here's how to write a great essay, without the hassle. Table Of Contents What is Analytical Essay? An analytical essay is quite simply an essay where you analyse a topic. They're most commonly used for analysing media, such as books or films. However, they can be used to analyse almost any topic. You're asked to come up with your own thesis, and support your case with research. Analytical Essay Structure Introduction: Introduce your topic. What is it, how long has it been around? How is it relevant to your course? Thesis statement: This is where you state your intentions for the essay. What have you found through analysing this topic? Main body: This will always differ, depending on what you're analysing. However, you'll always need to structure each paragraph the same way: Topic sentence Evidence to support your statement Detail on your statement Each section should flow into the next, to make the essay feel cohesive. Conclusion: this is where you'll draw all your points together, and restate your thesis. What in your essay proved it? How to Write Analytical Essay If you've been given some media to analyse, make sure you take it in. Sit and make notes that you can refer back to later. Now, do some wider reading so you can start analysing your subject. Keep these notes so you can use the evidence in text. Write an essay outline. This essay will be your road map for the essay. Use the structure above, and fill in the points you want to make. Write your essay. Taking your outline, start writing and fill in the gaps with your research and insights. Remember to back up any important points you make with evidence. Proofread and edit. Make sure you don't skip this step. If you do, you could lose marks off an otherwise good essay. Analytical Essay Topics As mentioned before, an analytical essay can be written about almost any topic. You'll be given a topic that sounds rather vague, and it will be your job to look at it from every angle, and form an informed opinion. For example, you could be asked to write about college football, or anti drugs campaigns. Analytical Essay Examples Here are some examples of what an analytical essay could be about: Homelessness in your city Obesity in society Body size and modelling Changing gender roles You can practice writing essays on these topics yourself. What's your opinion on them? Start researching and come up with a thesis that you can write around. You'll see that it's a lot easier to write an analytical essay than you first thought. This guide should help you write the best essay possible. Just follow this advice, and you'll be getting excellent grades before you know it. Analytical essays are higher level essays that are common at the university. Basically, these essays do not focus on the presentation of facts but the evaluation of the correctness of existing arguments. The answer to the question of how to write an analytical essay demands a proper understanding of the instructions and the development of a strong thesis statement, which is defended by the body paragraphs successfully. General Aspects Given the instructions of a particular analytical essay, the author internalizes and interprets the question prompt before beginning the essay. In this case, the first step in answering how to write an analytical essay is a careful reading of the instructions. Also, people should take in mind that they need to evaluate and explain their essay topics. Basically, an analytical essay is one of the types of papers. It usually has specific instructions concerning the expectations of the instructor. As a result, a clear understanding of the instructions ensures that the analytical essay example responds to an issue with an appropriate theoretical approach. A Thesis Statement in an Analytical Essay The development of a focused thesis statement is the next goal of the author to answer the question of how to write an analytical essay. In particular, a strong thesis statement provides a claim regarding the topic. It identifies a narrow scope for assessment. Besides, the thesis statement must provide a specific area of focus to avoid having a broad topic. In this case, it undermines the quality of the essay because it causes many generalizations. Also, the thesis statement should be framed in a manner that answers the "why" and "how" questions. The content of the thesis statement should provide the audience with a logical association between the claim and other influential elements that contribute to the argument. As a result, the thesis statement establishes specificity for critical analysis and suggests some underlying logic. The Structure of Analytical Essays By covering the question of how to write an analytical essay, it follows the essay structure. Basically, this format consists of an introduction, the body, and a conclusion. Firstly, the introductory paragraph provides some background information on the essay topics for college of interests and ends with the thesis statement. Also, the information in the first paragraph should be a concise presentation of the topic. It highlights issues that prepare the audience for the thesis statement. Then, the body of the essay is an objective discussion that defends the author's central position and explains the shortcomings of competing perspectives. Hence, the analysis presented must be unbiased. In turn, the paper must convince the audience of the legitimacy of the author's initial claim. Other Features There is no rigid structure for the body by considering how to write an analytical essay. It relies on the content and the aim of the essay. The order of discussing the various perspectives on the topic is at the discretion of the author. In turn, the audience must be able to follow the essay outline for analysis systematically. Moreover, each body paragraph should have a distinct contribution to the defense of the claim in the thesis statement based on specific evidence. The conclusion reiterates the author's initial claim and emphasizes the main points of the defense. An analytical essay is a well-integrated text that works to justify the author's claim. Conclusion on How to Write an Analytical Essay Good analytical essays must have a strong thesis statement supported by well-developed body paragraphs. Basically, the thesis statement regulates the scope of the paper to facilitate a focused analysis. On the whole, the answer to the question of how to write an analytical essay is to follow a cohesive work with the sole goal of substantiating the author's central claim. Also, people should know how to write a thesis statement or find someone to write essay for me at wr1ter.com by placing an order. Career DevelopmentHow To Write a Good Analytical Essay in 7 StepsBy Indeed Editorial TeamJuly 1, 2021Understanding how to construct an analytical essay is important for learning critical thinking skills that you can carry through your professional life. Breaking down the concepts of an analytical essay can help you write a more engaging and informative essay. In this article, we define the analytical essay, then consider how to approach each of its components and guide you through the steps to writing your own. What is an analytical essay?An analytical essay is a written exploration of a topic that argues a claim with contextual evidence. Analytical essays are common in academic writing, but can also appear in trade journals, newspapers and other publications. Often based on literary writing, films, art or current events, the essay centers around a thesis statement made about the work that is then supported through secondary sources as evidence of the thesis. Related: How To Write a Literary Analysis (With Examples and Tips)How to structure an analytical essayBefore you set out to write an analytical essay, outlining it will make the task of writing it that much easier. An analytical essay consists of: Introductory paragraph The opening paragraph captures the attention and sets up your analysis by doing these three things:Start with a hook. Open your essay with something enticing related to your topic, the goal being to grab the reader's attention. State your topics. Once you have your reader's attention, establish the upcoming topics as you move toward your thesis statement.Make your thesis statement. By the close of the introduction, you need to state in clear terms the thesis, which should act as a reduction of your entire analytical argument in one sentence. Read more: How To Write a Good Introduction to an EssayBody paragraphsWhile an analytical research paper could be much longer, a five-paragraph essay will have three body paragraphs (the introduction and conclusion being the other two). Regardless of length, each paragraph will start with a topic sentence that supports the thesis, whereas the rest of each paragraph supports the topic sentence. ConclusionA good conclusion should position your argument to intrigue further thought, as opposed to simply repeating the points you already made. A strong ending leaves the reader pondering your analysis in a larger context. It should tie back to your introduction and pull it all together into a tidy and correlative body of work, but it is not just a summary. Related: How To Write a Conclusion (With Tips and Examples)How to write an analytical essayTo best approach the analytical essay, consider the components outlined above and follow these steps: 1. Take your stance on a topicDepending on the assignment, you may either be given a topic, or you could be tasked with choosing one. Choosing your topic provides creative opportunity, but it can also be overwhelming. When in this situation, just pick something you know well, but you should also choose something that genuinely interests you. Most importantly, try to choose something that allows plenty of room for discussion and argument. While your topic needs to be as focused as possible, the real focus lies on establishing your perspective of the work you are analyzing. You may start by brainstorming to gain a better understanding of your feelings and impressions of the topic, but ultimately what you should be formulating is an argument to best articulate your analysis of the topic.Example of choosing a topicIf your classroom spent a considerable amount of attention discussing how "To Kill a Mockingbird" is a coming-of-age story, you may have a lot of notes and material to support how this is a book about the growing pains of a young girl named Scout growing up. The problem is that there isn't much of a provocative argument if everyone already agrees. Instead, think of a real position that still draws from this observation but in a deeper way. Beginning from this idea of Scout growing up, maybe there is more to it than that. Maybe she is more than a kid growing up, but a girl growing up into a woman clashing with society's expectations of her. To formulate an argument, you could go even further. Scout isn't just a kid, nor is she just a girl. She is a headstrong young woman who doesn't conform to expected gender roles. Even further, this is intimidating to the people of the small town where she lives, which is in the rural South during the mid-20th century—a place rife with racism, classism and yes, sexism too. That being said, maybe it isn't just children who only speak when spoken to, but "ladies." Now you have a specific idea that prompts readers into reacting, while still being an idea that is documented throughout the text. Related: 125 Argumentative Essay Topics To Choose From 2. Draft your thesis statementA thesis statement is a detailed claim that makes a concise argument about your topic, ideally in one sentence and never more than two. While your thesis statement may evolve as you work out the entire essay, it is advisable to start your paper with a thesis in mind. As you work through your essay, you'll continue to hone down your thesis to be as succinct as possible. Ideally, the thesis should be immediately recognizable for what it is—the backbone of your entire essay. Example thesis statement: Among the grave injustices that are prevalent throughout the adult world, Scout realizes during her descent into womanhood that she will always be silenced, for as she struggles to find her own voice, she is relentlessly reminded that as a woman, she shouldn't even have one.Read more: How To Write a Thesis Statement (With Tips and Examples)3. Write your topic sentencesOnce you have a good idea of your argument, lay out how the essay will support your case. Your essay will consist of body paragraphs that are held together by topic sentences—write your topic sentences as if they are the bones of your essay. If your assignment is to write a five-paragraph essay that is specifically designed to hold three body paragraphs, each body paragraph will be its own topic that is launched by a topic sentence. If you are writing a longer paper, a topic sentence can extend past a single paragraph. Having your thesis and topic sentences laid out can work as a functional outline with working pieces, although you could elect to draft an outline in greater detail where you also map where you place references to outside sources. Example topic sentenceThinking about how to "prove" that Scout has a fate in life where she will always be admonished for voicing her opinions, you'll want to support this with examples. You might think about how Jem tells Scout that she had better not start behaving like a girl, yet he and Dill still end up ostracizing despite her fastidious work at remaining a "tomboy." She is also scolded for the way she dresses, the way she speaks and for being ready to fistfight anyone who speaks ill of her father. To take it further, you could frame this in a way that suggests that she is chastised more for her behavior being unladylike than she is for being grubby and dirty, cussing or going against the general opinions of the town. Any of these ideas could be shaped into topic sentences. Here is one that sets up a discussion about how she interacts with people of the town: Scout willfully refuses to adhere to gender norms, from the clothes she wears to the way she interacts with people—even in the name she uses. 4. Gather data from outside sourcesWhen making an analysis, you will usually be required to enlist the help of outside sources. The information you compile should support the claims you make. Keep the following in mind when gathering data:Use primary or secondary sources. A primary source is a first-hand account of the topic. If you quoted Scout saying that she "could not be a lady if she wore breeches," that would be a primary source. If you found an article that discussed the author's intent when writing the book, that would be secondary. Choose to quote or paraphrase. Depending on the length and how specifically the material addresses the points you make, you may choose to quote your text exactly or paraphrase from the text. Example quote: "I felt the starched walls of a pink cotton penitentiary closing in on me, and for the second time in my life I thought of running away. Immediately." Example paraphrase: "In this section, Scout goes on to explain how shunned she feels by the boys no longer wishing to play with her, despite her attempts to prove herself as rejecting anything girlish."Use reputable sources. Reputable sources include peer-reviewed journals, regulated studies or materials created by respected professionals within the field.Cite your sources. Be sure to cite your sources so those reading the essay know where they can find the information that supports your claims. Most colleges require that you use the rules of the Modern Language Association.Related: How To Cite an Article: Steps, Tips and Examples5. Outline and structure your essayWith a thesis statement, topic sentences and chosen outside evidence, you have all the pieces of your essay and could effectively begin writing from here. Then again, drafting an outline can help you organize your thoughts as you situate where all your statements and supporting evidence will land when you execute your paper. Your outline gives you a chance to visualize how to make each piece service you, from a hook that pops to a conclusion that lets your reader walk away with something. Related: How To Write a Paper Step by Step (Plus Helpful Tips on Making It Effective)6. Write your essayWith all the pieces in place as an acting sketch, it's time to execute your first draft. Don't get too caught up on small errors. Focus on adhering to the structure you laid out to create a working draft.7. Proofread and editThe editing process is just as important as the writing process. While editing, you'll smooth out anything you may have missed, be they minor mechanical problems or points you really hoped to explore for the finished product. Related: 10 Essay Writing Tips



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