

Analysis Formula

A Pattern that Makes Writing Add Up!

Big Idea Sentence

What are you going to say about the text?

+

Paraphrase leading into T.E. that supports your Big Idea

Provide your reader a little context before getting into your GOLDEN NUGGET!

+

Commentary on how the T.E. support your Big Idea

Commentary is your expert reasoning about how your text evidence really justifies and proves your analysis.

+

Paraphrase leading into T.E. that supports your Big Idea and more commentary

All should be additional support for you BIG IDEA!!!!

=

STRONG ANALYSIS

EXAMPLE OF ANALYSIS PARAGRAPH FOLLOWING FORMULA:

Sherman Alexie wrote this novel in the first-person point of view to show how it is for a teen to be an Indian, and epileptic, and a poor person. Arnold Spirit, the protagonist, describes his life and how “[i]t sucks to be poor... feel that you somehow deserve [it] ... [a]nd then you start believing you’re stupid and ugly because you’re an Indian” (13). Arnold reveals his extremely low self esteem, directly related to his poverty and race, and he sees it as a never-ending cycle: “It’s an ugly circle and there’s nothing you can do about it”(13). This book is told in Arnold’s shoes so that the reader can understand how hopeless poverty and racism can make people feel. Readers need to know how it feels so that the cycle can be broken.

Don’t forget:

- **Analysis is not a summary! It is a big idea about the story, article, or writing;**
- **Write about literature in first-person;**
- **Specific is terrific—don’t use words like guy or kid—use ACADEMIC LANGUAGE! *The protagonist...The confused teen...***
- **Avoid saying *The book says* or *The Text states*. How is the information being revealed? *The story portrays, The narrator shares, The description reveals...***

EXAMPLES OF BIG IDEAS:

- *Collins creates an interesting, loving, and loyal character that responds to the brutality of the setting by risking her own life for that of her sister, without hesitation or doubt.*
- *Because Speak is written in the first-person, readers feel the pain Melinda goes through, making the experience more relatable and real.*
- *The character Alice is someone readers can relate to and connect with on an emotional level in part due to the format of the book being written as a diary.*
- *Katniss Everdeen is like a father to Prim, in part due to the setting and in part due to her strong character.*

