

Writing an Analytical Essay





[What is an Analytical Essay?

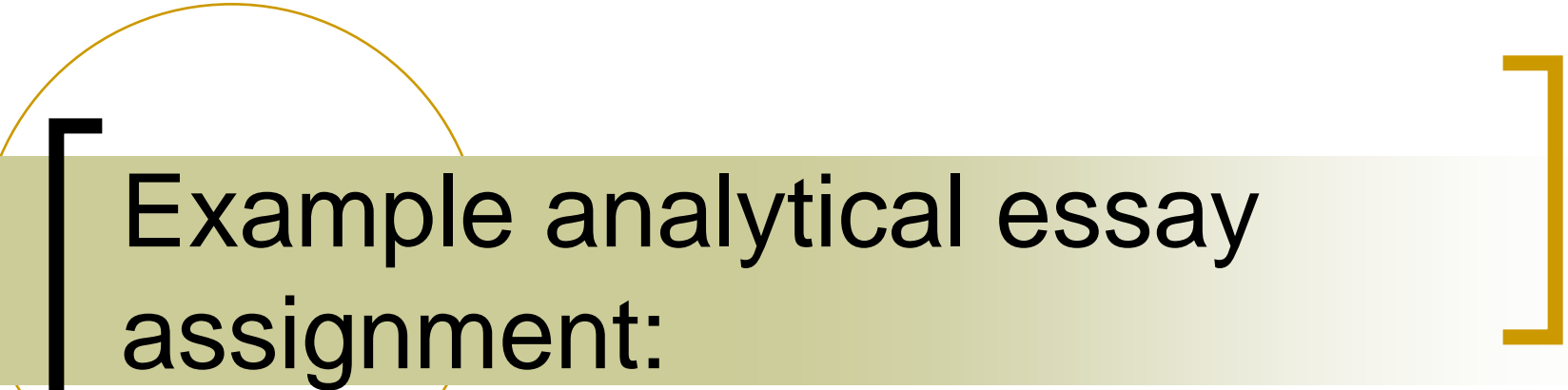
An Analytical Essay answers a question using an argument (thesis) and detailed examples (evidence)

- **Think of yourself as an attorney who is trying to win a case. You will make an argument (your client is not guilty) and provide evidence that proves/supports that your client is, in fact, not guilty.**

What is an analytical essay

[NOT?]

- An analytical essay is not merely a list of points.
You will have only three points of analysis
- An analytical essay is not your answer to a question based solely on your feelings or opinion.
You will base your answer on evidence
- An analytical essay is not written in first person.
You will write your essay in third person
- An analytical essay is not written using slang terms.
You will use proper grammar and a formal writing style



Example analytical essay
assignment:

**Discuss whether or not
8th graders should have
their curfew hours
extended.**

Step One:

Writing your First Paragraph

- Your first paragraph must include two things:
 - An introduction
 - A thesis statement
- The introduction consists of the first four or five sentences of your first paragraph
- The introduction gets the reader's head in the game- you inform your reader what your essay topic is
- Your thesis statement is the last sentence of the first paragraph in which you answer the essay prompt

Here is an example of how
NOT to write an introduction:

- Mommy and Daddy, I've been thinking a lot about curfews lately. Many of my friends are now allowed to stay out later and I think it's time you thought about extending my curfew.

Where has this writer gone wrong?



[Analytical Version-Intro]

- Middle school children are often thinking of their curfew and possibly extending it. This is especially true when these children are comparing their curfew to those of their peers.
- **What did this write do better here?**

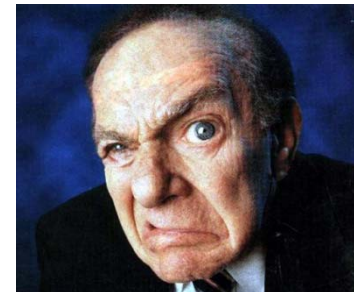
Right after the introduction in
the first paragraph-

Thesis Statement

- A thesis statement is map to tell the reader where you two are going. It tells the reader how you answer the question posed in the writing prompt.
- Your thesis statement must have what are called points of analysis. You have to have three points of analysis- reasons for why you are answering the question the way you are.

[Analytical Version-Thesis]

- Adults should extend their 8th grade child's curfew from 10 to 11pm if that child has exhibited responsibility, and because the child is getting older. Finally, extending an 8th graders curfew will lead to less time rushing to get home and less accidents while out.
- **What is the thesis statement?**
- **What are the three points of analysis?**



[Step 2: The Body of the Essay]

- The body of the essay is made up of three paragraphs.
- Each paragraph discusses, in detail, a point of analysis.
- We call each of these paragraphs a point of analysis because you will provide evidence and then explain how this evidence supports your thesis. You are analyzing your answer with evidence.
- The more evidence you provide, the more convincing your essay will be and, the better the grade you will receive.

[Topic Sentence Examples:]

Thesis Statement

- Adults should extend their 8th grade child's curfew from 10 to 11pm if that child has exhibited responsibility, and because the child is getting older. Finally, extending an 8th graders curfew will lead to less time rushing to get home and less accidents while out.

Topic Sentence of Body Paragraph #1:

If their child has exhibited responsibility, adults should extend the curfew of their 8th grader from 10 to 11pm

Topic Sentence of Body Paragraph #2:

Since their child is getting older, parents of 8th graders should extend the curfew to allow them one more hour out with friends.

Topic Sentence of Body Paragraph #3:

By extending an 8th graders curfew, parents will avoid their child from rushing home and possibly getting into an accident.

The Body of the Essay: -Topic Sentences

- Each body paragraph has to have a topic sentence.
- This sentence refers back to the thesis and tells the reader what point of analysis your paragraph will argue.
- Think of the topic sentence as an umbrella; everything you write in that paragraph must be related to and support the topic sentence- it all must fit under the umbrella!

The Body of the Essay: Evidence and Explanation

- Each body paragraph must include evidence *that* supports your thesis and an explanation for *how* it supports your thesis

Topic Sentence:

If their child has exhibited responsibility, adults should extend the curfew of their 8th grader from 10 to 11pm

Evidence that supports this point:

Showing responsibility indicates that a youth is maturing.

Explanation for how this point supports thesis:

As youth mature, it is a natural progression that they will stay out longer with friends. This is part of growing up. If the youth is exhibiting responsibility, this is a good indicator that he or she is maturing and should thus be allowed to stay out one hour longer.

The Body of the Essay: Paragraph Conclusions

- Each paragraph must be ended with a summing up of what you just discussed
- Wrap up what you have just said by reminding the reader that your thesis is correct based on the point of analysis you just presented in that particular paragraph

Step 3:

Last Paragraph of Essay: Conclusion

- End your essay with a conclusion. The conclusion takes what your essay has argued and briefly summarizes each of your three points of analysis, emphasizing the validity of your thesis statement
- DO NOT WRITE, “MY THESIS IS CORRECT BECAUSE...”
- You may also take this opportunity to make it personal with a short story of your own.

[Public Speaking:



- Your presentation must be memorized
- Your presentation must be at least one minute long

1st- Introduce the topic in an interesting way

2nd- State your thesis

3rd- Present your three points of analysis and explain how they support your thesis

4th- Conclude your presentation

[Public Speaking Tips:



- Know what you are going to say
- Make eye contact with audience
- Move your hands in a way that lets the audience know when you are moving on to a new point
- Practice standing and holding your hands so that you don't look awkward
- Speak up! Project your voice so that your audience is engaged
- Practice your presentation in front of friends, family, on the bus, at practice... in your sleep....