

Tips for Writing An Analysis

Writing the Opening

Your opening paragraph should gain your reader's attention and identify the thesis of your analysis. Use the suggestions listed below to help you get started.

1. Summarize your subject very briefly. Include the title, author, and the type of book (or other literary form). This can be done with a statement of "what and how" about the book.

In his novel *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding writes about [what?] the evil side of man [how?] by describing the actions of a group of young boys who are marooned on a deserted island.

2. Start with a quotation from the book and then comment on its importance (think in terms of the focus of your analysis).
3. Begin with an explanation of the author's purpose and how well you think he or she achieves this purpose.
4. Open with a few general statements about life that relate to the focus of your analysis.

There comes a time when everyone has to ...

5. Begin with a general statement about the type of literature you are analyzing. Then discuss your subject within this context.

The best science fiction always seems believable and logical within the context of the story line. This certainly is true in ...

Writing the Body

Develop or support your focus in the body, or main part, of the analysis. To make sure that you effectively explain each main point, follow these three steps:

1. State each main point so that it clearly relates to the thesis of your analysis.
2. Support each main point with specific details or direct quotations from the text you are analyzing.
3. Explain how these specific details prove your point.

Writing the Closing

In the final paragraph, tie the important parts together and restate the focus of your analysis. Leave your readers with a final thought that will keep this piece of literature on their minds for some time.