

Analyzing writing with

NEZZ

Know the moves for analyzing author's craft.

A paragraph is a fully developed idea. Use (and, when you wish, reorder) the following components to write paragraphs that analyze author's craft. You can reorder and change this as you become more confident and experienced.

Argument	<p>Begin each paragraph with an argument that states how or why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Jones's imagery in chapter 7 helps establish that Yolanda is independent and bold."</i> • <i>"The structure and imagery in Whitman's text both underscore its rejection of lecture-style learning in favor of experience."</i>
Name It	<p>Name the literary device or technique being used (<u>at any moment</u> in your writing):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Here, Morrison uses a <u>metaphor</u> to describe Pecola"</i> • <i>"Lincoln's <u>diction</u> helps him associate the battle with spirituality."</i>
Explain It	<p>Provide context for the quote that shares the <i>what</i> and <i>when</i> for the evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Shakespeare uses the words 'wreckful siege,' 'battering days' and 'gates impregnable' to establish that time is at odds with beauty."</i> • <i>"When Andrew puts the harmonica to his mouth for the first time, Fenner writes that it 'bleeds song' (34)."</i>
Zoom In [only if analyzing author's craft]	<p>[Use as needed when analyzing author's craft—not always!]</p> <p>Pull out a powerful word and zoom in on its connotation (do this when unpacking the connotations of a word or image helps prove your argument):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom in on "MR. CUF" words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multiple Meanings: Images/words/ideas that appear to have multiple meanings (allusions, symbols, wordplay) ○ Repeated images/words/ideas ○ Charged connotations with images/words/ideas ○ Unexpected or surprising images/words/ideas ○ Figurative language • Consider: why is <i>this</i> choice meaningful? How would this text be different if a different word were chosen? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>"Lowry intentionally uses the word 'labor' instead of 'work' to describe the birthmothers' duties. 'Work' can refer to tasks we accomplish with our minds or bodies, but 'labor' refers solely to physical tasks."</i> ○ <i>"Taken together, the pattern of diction in the second quatrain evokes the notion of war (5-8)."</i> ○ <i>"Alvarez writes the rain is 'slapping' down for a reason: it reminds readers of Minerva physically smacking Trujillo just a few pages earlier."</i>
Zoom Out	<p>Always zoom out to answer "So what?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The zoom out usually takes at least two sentences: (1) Explain the effect/importance of the evidence you selected; • (2) Explain how this evidence supports your argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zo1: <i>"Tan's comparison helps her convey how embarrassed her narrator is by her own culture."</i> ○ Zo2: <i>"Her narrator rejects her own identity in favor of someone else's, underscoring how dangerous this can be."</i> ○ Zo1: <i>"Poe signals that his protagonist clearly isn't someone who can be trusted."</i> ○ Zo2: <i>"As a result, the entire narrative becomes suspect, in a way that adds tension for the reader."</i>
Clincher	<p>End paragraph with a statement that reaffirms its overall argument:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>"By establishing a clear connection between beauty and virtue, Smith implies that to be fair is also to be good, a sentiment clearly at odds with this next quatrain."</i>