

Analyses

What is an Analysis?

Analyses are 500-800 word papers where you analyze a reading or practice specific writing or critical thinking skills. You will often use your analyses to contribute to class discussion.

The Basics

- Use MLA format for paper layout
- 500-800 words
- Include a creative title
- Use paragraphs
- Use topic sentences
- When responding to a reading, bring in quotations as evidence



Analyses are due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm the night before their assigned class; be prepared to discuss!

Rubric

Criteria	Needs Work	Developing	Proficient
Formatting	Does not use MLA formatting	Uses MLA formatting and citation with small issues	Uses proper MLA formatting and citation
Organization	Main idea is not clear; missing or hard to find supporting claims; organization of ideas is not evident	Main idea is clear in organizational structure; some issues with internal paragraph organization or ordering of ideas	Clearly stated main idea with supporting claims and evidence; organized so paragraphs complement one another
Grammar & Style	Several grammatical errors or lack of clarity and specificity	Some grammatical errors; issues with specificity of language, but writing is clear and easy to understand	Few grammatical errors; avoids nondescript word usage; uses complex sentence structure and tone related to content

Depth of Thought	Rarely gives evidence or examples	Begins to describe ideas or questions and provides some examples or textual evidence. When analyzing a text, points to sections that further illuminate ideas	Fully articulates ideas or questions and provides examples or textual evidence; when analyzing a text, provides full quotes that illuminate ideas
Level of completion	Significantly shorter than required and does not align with prompt	Shorter than required length but aligns with prompt	Full 500-800 words that aligns with prompt

Analysis Prompts

Analysis #1: Photo Essay, [date]

Choose one of the "[Where We Are](#)" essays to analyze; use strategies described in the [NYT activity sheet](#) to find helpful questions and strategies for analyzing the photo essay. Remember to have an overarching idea, use complete sentences, and write in paragraphs.

Analysis #2: Rhetoric, [date]

Write a rhetorical analysis of a piece of multimedia journalism from the list on Blackboard; use strategies from the rhetorical analysis handouts on Bb and the questions below to develop a thesis and three to five claims with supporting evidence. Think of your thesis as a sentence that sums up your findings: it is the conclusion you draw by adding all your evidence together.

This assignment is NOT about the topic of the piece of journalism. You are analyzing the journalism itself. What rhetorical strategies does the author use to what effect? A critical analysis studies not just what the writer or creator communicates but *how* they communicate. The questions below will help you analyze your piece:

- What is the basic argument of the piece?
- What kind of evidence do they provide to prove their point?
- To whom is the author writing? (Who is the audience?) How do you know?
- In what context is the author writing? (Time? Venue? "Climate?")
- How is the project structured?
- How do they incorporate other media (image, video, audio, data visualization)?
- How do they transition between sections and why?
- How does the reader's immersion in the piece through design elements, scrolling formats, etc. influence its content)?

- What words, images, or motifs do you see the author emphasizing or repeating? Why?
- How does the author use analogy, imagery, and symbolism?
- Does the author refer to other authors? In what ways? For what purpose?
- What stylistic traits do you see the author using? To what end?
- How does the author try to persuade their readers?
- Who or what does the author praise or criticize? Why?
- How does the author employ pathos, ethos, and logos?
- What methods of reasoning does the author use?
- Does the author use rhetorical fallacies? If so, what are they? What impact do they have?

Analysis #3: Audience, [date]

Choose a social media platform and a specific target audience for your video assignment. You can imagine your video for any platform and demographic, but be specific: cottagecore, TikTok's roller skating community, your boyfriend's grandma on Facebook. It is up to you!

What do you know about your audience? What does your audience already know about the subject? What do they need to know? What are the best methods for appealing to your audience? Include examples from social media demonstrating your claims. These might include screenshots from a TikTok Community, a hashtag's feed and the hashtags they in turn use, other searches you've done to learn about the demographic. You don't want to be patronizing or insulting. The goal is to try to communicate either with a group of people you think you know well or a group of people who you assume do not see the world the way you do. Use this [resource](#) to find questions you might answer about your audience.

Analysis #4: Literature, [date]

Write a reflection analyzing one of the literary texts we've read using strategies from *How to Read Like an English Professor*. What do you notice about the text? What seems important to you? Why? Bring in quotes and page numbers to help talk about what you have learned. Practice integrating quotes using the guide on Blackboard. How is reading a literary analysis different from reading other texts we've read? How can you apply what you see in the text to your research team's CODES theme?

Analysis #5: Possible Futures, [date]

In class, we brainstormed and developed ideas for Ruha Benjamin's project-based prompt: "Sketch an existing systemic inequity and potential abolitionist responses to it within the next twenty years." In this reflection, synthesize our discussion and your notes to provide your own thoughts on what is possible, plausible, probable and preferable. What would be your chosen set of responses and why?