



Analysis and Summary

Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM M–Th,
8:30 AM– 4:30 PM F, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM S–S
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
Phone: 405-945-3278

Definition: Analysis is detailed examination of the elements or structure of a text. Summary is a brief statement or account of the main points of a text.

Fiction Analysis: For a quality analysis, it is important to consider relevant features in a text, such as theme, imagery, setting, and conflict.

Theme is the central idea in the work. While there will most likely be more specific sub-themes, it is important to identify the overall theme.

Questions to ask yourself about theme:

1. How do the characters relate to society?
2. What social issues are prevalent?
3. What inner issues are the characters dealing with?
4. What kind of control, if any, do the characters have over their situations?
5. What inner and outer forces affect the characters' choices?

Setting is the time and location of the work.

Questions to ask yourself about setting:

1. How does the external setting compare to the internal thoughts of the characters or the main conflict?
2. Why did the author choose this specific setting?
3. How does the description of the setting alter the reader's opinion of it?
4. Is there symbolism in the setting?
5. Does the main character "fit" in the setting, or does he/she seem out of place there?



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Imagery is the visual description within the text, often used in conjunction with similes, metaphors, and personification. Imagery can also be used to associate a certain emotion with a person, place, or thing, to further the purpose of the text.

Questions to ask yourself about imagery:

1. What types of images are in the text? Are they light, happy, dark, or a mix of them all?
2. What patterns continue to arise in the images?
3. What could these images represent?
4. Is there symbolism in the work? How could the symbols add to the overall meaning?
5. How does the author use figurative language (metaphors, similes, personification)?

Conflict is the struggle within the work. For example, one possible conflict is a veteran trying to live a normal life while dealing with PTSD (man versus himself). Another possible conflict is a woman's fight for survival in the wilderness of a foreign country (man versus nature).

Questions to ask yourself about the conflict:

1. What is the main conflict?
2. What types of conflict are in the work (man vs. man, man vs himself, man vs. nature, man vs. God, man vs. society)?
3. Is the conflict resolved? If so, how?
4. Does the conflict draw out traits in the characters?
5. What lesson, if any, does the main character learn?



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Rhetorical Features Analysis: In many essays, you will be asked to analyze rhetorical features:

Genre What is the apparent genre of the text? What are the conventions of that genre? (Think about typical length, style, tone, formatting/design, whether & how sources are cited, etc.) Are there any special features?

Author's Purpose What is the author's purpose? (As specifically as possible, how do they want to change the reader's view?) In terms of broad rhetorical aim, is this purpose primarily *informative* or *persuasive*? Is there any element of *entertainment*?

Audience Who is the intended audience? How busy are they? What are their motives for reading? What is the relationship between the author and the audience? What knowledge does the audience already have? What knowledge do they need?

Angle of Vision How does the author reveal their perspective on the topic? Is it stated directly or only implied? What details are included or omitted, and what is the effect of those choices? How do word choices and sentence structures contribute to the development of a specific angle of vision?

Logos

What is the main idea of the text? What evidence or supporting details are included? How clear and consistent is the message?

Ethos

How does the author come across in the text? What contributes to the development of this persona? Is this persona effective for accomplishing the text's purpose?

Pathos

How does the author appeal to the audience's feelings or values? Are these strategies effective?

Kairos

How is the text connected to a specific time and place? Are there features that lose effectiveness or relevance outside of the text's original context?

Style/Voice

What stands out in terms of the author's ways of shaping sentences, word choices, voice or persona, and/or tone? Is the writing high or low on the ladder of abstraction? What are the effects of these choices? Overall, are the style and voice appropriate for the genre, audience, and purpose?

Design/Format

Analyze the choices used for Type, Space and Layout, and Color (see pp. 71–72). To what extent are these choice aspects of the genre? What other rhetorical effects do they have?

Multimodal Features

Analyze any graphics, images, videos, and/or sound. How does these relate to logos, ethos, and/or pathos?



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Summary: This is a short, concise description of a work. It should go beyond a simple retelling of the plot, and it is important not to go into any unnecessary detail.

Important Details:

- Author's name and title of the work
- Author's claim or thesis
- Author's main points
- Author's use of rhetorical features
- Author's final conclusion

Unnecessary Details:

- Your opinion on the text
- Your comments on the text
- A detailed outline of the text
- Additional information (something not from the text)
- Presenting details, not what they add up to