

Analytical essay

Answer a question by interpreting evidence

COMMON FORMS

Literature, history, geography, social science

TEXT SHAPE

Focused thesis → linked analytical paragraphs → conclusion answering the question

FEATURES AND LANGUAGE

Topic sentences; evidence; interpretive verbs; cohesive links; qualification

PLAN AND TEACH IT

Turn the question into a line of reasoning. After each quotation or datum, explain what it shows.

tone and register

Formal and evidence-led; precise verbs are stronger than inflated vocabulary.

LINKED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Try: Answer the Question Precisely · Answer with a Quote · Because Sentence

A MODEL TO NOTICE

Bring a short example. Ask who it is for, what it is trying to do and which feature helps it work. Compare it with a less effective draft.

QUICK CHECKLIST

- ☐ The opening makes the purpose clear: Answer a question by interpreting evidence.
- ☐ Each part has a clear place and moves the reader towards the purpose.
- ☐ The language features, tone and level of formality fit the reader and situation.

A QUICK CLASSROOM ROUTINE

- 1 NOTICE** Read a model for purpose, shape and audience.
- 2 REHEARSE** Practise a useful sentence or language feature aloud.
- 3 WRITE** Plan, draft and use the guide as a checklist.
- 4 REVIEW** Ask a partner whether the text does its job; revise one feature.
Keep the subject thinking ambitious. Make the language visible, practise it, then fade the support.