

Verbs for Analysis (Instead of "Shows" or "Says")

Using strong, precise verbs is the fastest way to make your analysis sound more academic and insightful.

To Argue or Assert

- **Argues:** The author argues that...
- **Asserts:** The text asserts the protagonist's innocence...
- **Posits:** The poet posits that nature is...
- **Contends:** The writer contends that societal change is...
- **Maintains:** The character maintains his belief in...

To Suggest or Imply

- **Implies:** The dialogue implies a hidden tension...
- **Suggests:** The setting suggests a sense of decay...
- **Insinuates:** The narrator insinuates that the character is unreliable...
- **Alludes to:** The poem alludes to a classical myth...
- **Connotes:** The color red connotes passion and danger...

To Emphasise or Highlight

- **Emphasises:** The repetition emphasises the character's anxiety...
- **Highlights:** The author highlights the hypocrisy of...
- **Accentuates:** The dark lighting accentuates the scene's gloom...
- **Underscores:** This failure underscores the story's central theme...
- **Illuminates:** The contrast illuminates the difference between...

To Examine or Portray

- **Depicts:** The novel depicts the harsh realities of war...
- **Portrays:** The character is portrayed as...
- **Examines:** The text examines the concept of justice...
- **Explores:** The poem explores themes of loss and memory...
- **Juxtaposes:** The author juxtaposes wealth and poverty to...

To Criticise or Challenge

- **Challenges:** The text challenges the reader's assumptions...
- **Critiques:** The author critiques the social structure...
- **Questions:** The ending questions the possibility of...
- **Subverts:** The novel subverts traditional gender roles...
- **Satirises:** The play satirises political corruption...

PEEL Paragraph Structure

Point

- **Purpose:** Your main argument or topic sentence.
 - **Key Vocabulary & Sentence Starters:**
 - The author (verb) that...
 - In (Text Name), the (author/poet) explores...
 - (Character)'s primary motivation is...
 - The central theme of (theme) is established through...
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Evidence

- **Purpose:** The quote or specific example from the text.
 - **Key Vocabulary & Sentence Starters:**
 - This is evident when (character) states, "...".
 - The author illustrates this through (literary device)...
 - For example, the text describes...
 - This can be seen in the line, "...".
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Explanation

- **Purpose:** Your analysis. Explain *how* and *why* the evidence proves your point.
 - **Key Vocabulary & Sentence Starters:**
 - This (quote/device) **highlights/emphasises/suggests**...
 - The word choice ("diction") here **connotes**...
 - This **juxtaposition** reveals the...
 - The author's use of (device) **illuminates** the...
 - This **symbolises** the character's internal...
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Link

- **Purpose:** Connect your point back to the overall essay question or theme.
- **Key Vocabulary & Sentence Starters:**
 - Therefore, the text **posits** that...
 - Ultimately, this **underscores** the author's message about...
 - This **contributes** to the overarching theme of...
 - Thus, the author **critiques** the idea that...

Key Literary Analysis Terms

Words to Describe the Author's Craft

- **Diction:** The author's specific word choice. (e.g., "The author's **connotative** diction creates a sense of...")
- **Syntax:** Sentence structure. (e.g., "The use of short, fragmented **syntax** (or truncated syntax) mirrors the character's panic.")
- **Tone:** The author's or speaker's attitude toward the subject. (e.g., "a **sarcastic, somber, reverent, or critical** tone")
- **Mood:** The atmosphere or feeling created for the reader. (e.g., "an **ominous, serene, or melancholy** mood")
- **Motif:** A recurring idea, image, or symbol in a text. (e.g., "the **motif** of light and darkness")
- **Theme:** The central idea, message, or insight into life. (e.g., "a central **theme** of redemption")

Key Literary Devices

- **Metaphor:** A direct comparison without using "like" or "as." (e.g., "The city is a concrete jungle.")
- **Simile:** A comparison using "like" or "as." (e.g., "He was as brave as a lion.")
- **Personification:** Giving human qualities to inanimate objects. (e.g., "The wind whispered through the trees.")
- **Imagery:** Descriptive language that appeals to the five senses. (e.g., "**olfactory imagery, "visual imagery, "auditory imagery"**")
- **Symbolism:** When an object or person represents an abstract idea. (e.g., "The dove **symbolises** peace.")
- **Juxtaposition:** Placing two contrasting ideas or images side-by-side to highlight their differences. (e.g., "the **juxtaposition** of life and death")
- **Allusion:** A reference to another text, historical event, or cultural work. (e.g., "a biblical **allusion**")
- **Irony:** A contrast between expectation and reality (dramatic, situational, or verbal).
- **Foreshadowing:** Hints or clues about what will happen later in the story.
- **Pathetic Fallacy:** A type of personification where the weather or natural world reflects the inner feelings of a character.

Words for Character & Plot

- **Protagonist:** The main character.
- **Antagonist:** The force or character opposing the protagonist.
- **Foil:** A character who contrasts with another (usually the protagonist) to highlight particular qualities.
- **Characterisation:** The way an author builds and reveals a character's personality.



- **Climax:** The turning point or moment of highest tension in the plot.
- **Dénouement:** The resolution or "untying" of the plot's conflicts.
- **Volta:** A "turn" or significant shift in the tone or argument of a poem.