

Guidelines for writing an analysis

Instructors who ask you to analyze a nonfiction text often expect you to address some of the following questions.

- What is the author's thesis or central idea? Who is the audience?
- What questions does the author address (implicitly or explicitly)? What questions are left unanswered?
- How does the author structure the text? What are the key parts and how do they relate to one another and to the thesis?
- What strategies has the author used to generate interest in the argument and to persuade readers of its merit?
- What evidence does the author use to support the thesis? How persuasive is the evidence?
- Does the author anticipate objections and counter opposing views?
- Does the author fall prey to any faulty reasoning?