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## **AN ANALYTICAL ESSAY AND ITS PLACE IN TEACHING WRITING**

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Writing essays plays an important role in learning English from the point of view of language acquisition, extending students' learning style and language experience. As a matter of fact EL students benefit from writing as it helps them memorize the new language and develop mental activity. Moreover, writing is far more suitable for the students who have difficulty in presenting their thoughts orally without a preparatory step.

The bulk of an essay can be divided into a few parts: the introduction, the body of an essay and the final part. The introduction declares what will be said, then the facts and ideas are presented by way of analysis, and this part is supplied with conclusions. The introduction of an essay shows the theme and what is to be expected in the main part which provides in detail, with description and development of the main facts. In this part we find statements that support certain ideas and opposing views as they are essential in revealing the truth. The basic aim of the final part is to draw attention to the main ideas of the essay and to stress the most important information. Each part of an essay consists of paragraphs which may be a sentence or a passage which depends on the intention to focus on the subject briefly or with much detail.

In writing an analytical essay the student's aim is to convey sense of what the text is saying, and how the text creates its meaning - the use of the various aspects and devices are applied. The simplest way to open an essay is with a statement of what one has decided the meaning of the text, the most sufficient interpretation, is. Consequently, the body of an essay is a presentation of one's interpretation: you demonstrate the ways in which the text makes the meaning you believe it to have. In the conclusion students should sum up their findings or recapitulate their argument briefly, and extend the significance of their reading if need be — this is where the comment on the more general, cultural or moral or technical significances of the theme and techniques of the text is hidden. It is possible to begin an essay in other ways — by stating what the main barriers are to an interpretation of the text or what the main difficulties with arriving at an interpretation are, for instance, and how the reader intends to deal with the text, or by stating what sorts of options he/she has in terms of emphases and why he/she have chosen that one. It is important to give a sense of how the students are proceeding in the essay and why.

There is no unified formula for essay writing. The form which the essay takes can vary with the nature of the students' evidence (quotations from the text or from other sources), with the sense of how the text material is arranged, with an individual interpretation. Obviously, this is for students to decide how to make some organizational decisions. Fiction is usually analyzed orally or in written form by considering one or more aspects of the work in the categories of theme (ideas, meanings), and/or of fictional techniques (plot, point of view, etc.).

Writing an analytical essay, students should bear in mind that there are different kinds of literature in each genre, and different kinds may rely on different devices. A work of fiction might be allegorical, it might use magical realism, it might concentrate on the effects of the environment, or it might attempt metaphorically to represent the interior lives of characters. Thus to write an effective essay one should figure out what the main devices and strategies are, and concentrate on them, adding the lesser ones later and not necessarily in full. It's worth trying to start with the simplest, most obvious situation — two persons are meeting, and we add other possible points of meaning as they seem to extend or illuminate the dramatic situation — for instance a hurricane is approaching and the meeting is seen from only one person's point of view, each group of rhymed lines gives a different meaning to what the significance of the meeting might be. It is necessary to focus on the 'form' and the 'content', and on the way how something is said shapes what it means.

Generally speaking, oral and written analysis of fiction has many similarities to the analysis of poetry. As a rule a work of fiction is a narrative, with characters, with a setting, told by a narrator, with some ambition to represent 'the world' in some fashion.

Speaking about the plot it is necessary to mention that a work of fiction has a certain arrangement of events which are taken to have a relation to one another. This arrangement of events to some end — for instance to create significance, raise the level of generality, extend or complicate the meaning — is known as 'plot'. Narrative is an integral part of human experience; it is used to make sense out of human experience, to remember and relate events and significance, and to establish the basic patterns of character's behavior. If there is no vivid link of events in a story or novel meant for analytical essay, the options can be said to be poorly written or to consider that the lack of relation is thematic, and shows the varied character of life experience.

To establish significance in narrative there will often be coincidence, parallel or contrasting episodes, repetitions of various sorts: the repetition of challenges, crises, episodes, symbols, motifs, etc. The chain of events in order to create significance is the plot which is to be reflected throughout an analytical essay.

In the process of creating an analytical essay students should pay attention to characters in fiction designed to explore certain aspects of human experience. Characters often depict particular traits of human nature; they may represent only one or two traits — altruism or egoism, or they represent very complex clashes, values and feelings; there can be contrasting or parallel characters, and usually there will be a significance to the selection of types of characters and to their relationship. On the whole, the significance of a character can vary from the dramatization of a unique individual to the most conventional and symbolic and it should be stressed in the students' piece of writing.

As for the setting it may slide from the concrete to the general. As a rule setting has particular culturally coded significance - a lake or a top of the mountain has a significance — for us different from that of a dirty southern market, and different situations can be constructed through its use. Settings can be used in contrasting and comparative ways to add significance, can be repeated all over again with variations which as well should be depicted in an essay.

A narration requires a person or more to tell the story. This person or persons will observe events from a certain angle, or point of view, in terms of the way this person or persons are related to the events and characters. This person is called a narrator who may be outside the story, telling it objectively; or a narrator may be a character (or characters) within the story, telling it in the first person. First-person characters may be trustworthy, telling the truth, seeing things right, or they may be unreliable. If a narration by an external narrator carries the reader into the world of a character in the story, that character is defined as a reflector

character; such a character is unaware of the narration. An external narrator may achieve the narrative by keeping the reader in a relation of suspense to the story or in a relation of irony. The narrator must definitely be portrayed in detail in students' writing.

Still another issue to deal with in an essay is figurative language; as in any genre, this language tends to be used to characterize the sensibility and understanding of characters and to establish thematic significance.

Writing an analytical essay students focus on the fact that fiction generally claims to show 'reality' (this is known as representation or mimesis — imitative representation of the real world in art and literature) in some way; however, because any narrative is presented through the symbols and codes of human meaning and communication systems, fiction cannot represent reality directly, and various narratives and its forms represent different aspects of reality, and represent reality in different ways. A narrative might be very concrete and closely connected with time and place of every-day or routine events; still it may for instance represent psychological, moral, spiritual or historical aspects through symbols and characters used representatively or symbolically, hardly probable events, and other devices. In addition the student in the process of his/her activity should remember that all narrative requires selection, and therefore it requires exclusion as well, and it requires devices to put the selected elements of experience in meaningful relation to each other. Therefore he/she comes back to such important key elements as coincidence, parallels and opposites, repetitions, etc.

As narrative represents human experience this or that way and since it uses cultural codes and language to do so, it should be read and analyzed in an essay for its structure of values, for its understanding of the world, or world-view, and for its ideological beliefs, what is assumed to be natural and proper. Every narrative communication (oral and written) makes claims, often implicitly, about the nature of the world as the narrator and his or her cultural traditions understand it to be proper. The kind of writing which is traditionally called 'literature' has a tendency of using cultural codes, human experience and structuring devices of narrative with a high degree of intentionality in order to offer a complex understanding of the world. The astute student-reader of fiction will be aware of the shape of the world that the fiction projects, the structure of values that underlie the fiction (what the fiction explicitly claims and what it implicitly claims through its codes and its ideological understandings); will be aware of the differences and similarities between the world of the fiction and the world that the reader lives in; and will be aware of the significances of the selections and exclusions of the narrative in representing human experience and will give the fullest possible description in his/her analytical writing.

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