How To: Write Advanced Analysis

Remember, your analysis should make up ⅔ of your body paragraph, if not more.

It is the **most important** part of your paragraph because it makes a connection between the evidence and your claim.

**Steps to Improve Analysis:**

1. Explain the evidence in your own words

2. Choose an important word or phrase in your evidence and explain why it is important (identify literary devices)

3. Explain how the evidence proves your claim/topic sentence

Focus on identifying an important word or phrase and explaining how it shows an example of the device that you are describing. Explain what it shows and how it shows that. Then connect it back to your claim or topic sentence.

**Example:**

Topic sentence: In the memoir, *Black Boy,* Richard Wright uses the motif of hunger in order to convey the idea that hunger can be both emotionally and physically haunting.

Context: In this scene, Richard travels to the white part of town with his dog, Betsy, to try to sell her so that he can buy food. Because his family has no money for food, Richard is often forced to scavenge the streets for food to soften the hunger pains in his stomach.

Evidence: Wright describes that, “One afternoon hunger haunted me so acutely that I decided to try to sell my dog Betsy and buy some food” (Wright 69).

Step 1: This evidence is significant because it illustrates just how far Richard is willing to go to feed his hunger. Even though he loves his dog, Betsy, he is so hungry that he is willing to sacrifice his love for her in order to feed himself.

Step 2: He uses the word “haunted” in order to portray how his hunger is like a ghost that follows him everywhere he goes.

Step 3: It drives him to do inconceivable things, such as attempting to sell his pet, in order to satiate his need for food and fulfillment. In conclusion, this scene illustrates the physical and emotional toll of Wright’s hunger.

**Exemplar:**

In the text, *Drown,* Junot Diaz uses similes to describe the pain and suffering that his characters experience growing up in poverty. In this scene, Yunior describes the tension between his parents and the impact that it has on his outlook on the world. He states, “with the sun sliding out of the sky like spit off a wall, I just wanted to get this over with” (Diaz 24). **While most people describe sunsets as beautiful and inspiring, in this quote, Diaz describes it as disgusting and repulsive. He uses the simile “like spit off a wall” to illustrate how Yunior’s view of the sunset is negatively impacted by the tension between his parents and the overwhelming poverty of his situation. This illustrates how Yunior’s view of the world, especially things that most people find beautiful, is turned into something negative because of the environment that surrounds him. In conclusion, Diaz uses similes to describe the pain and suffering that Yunior experiences during his coming-of-age.**