

Text analysis

Here are some more questions and vocabulary that will help you with your analysis.

Questions for analysing a factual text

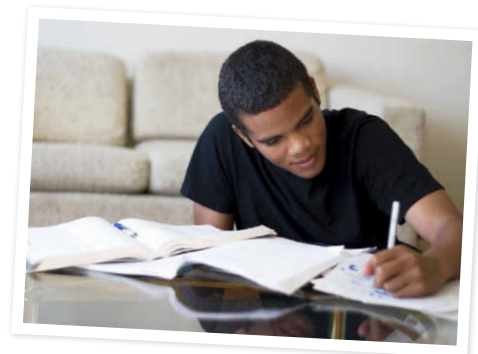
1. What is the central idea / topic of the text? What are the main arguments?
2. How is the text structured?
3. What is the purpose of the text? Does the text inform or persuade?
Does the text only show one perspective?
4. How is it written? Does the author only describe the facts or also analyse the consequences?
5. Does the text include evidence¹ / examples / explanations?
Is it a reliable source? What information is missing?

Questions for analysing a fictional text

1. **Narrative perspective:** What's the narrative perspective (first-person narrator, third-person narrator)? How does the narrative perspective influence what we learn about the story / characters?
2. **Character:** Who is the main character? What are the main character's values, beliefs and motivations? How is the main character described (physical appearance², thoughts and feelings)? How does the character talk?
3. **Theme and conflict:** What is the theme of the story – e.g. love, death, growing up, survival, revenge, good vs bad? What is the main conflict – e.g. conflict within herself / himself, with the environment, with the supernatural, with society, with another character?
4. **Setting:** Where is the story set? Is the setting important for the story?
How does the setting affect the atmosphere?
5. **Language / style:** How is the story written (see "Adjectives to describe style" below)?
Does the author use similes and metaphors?

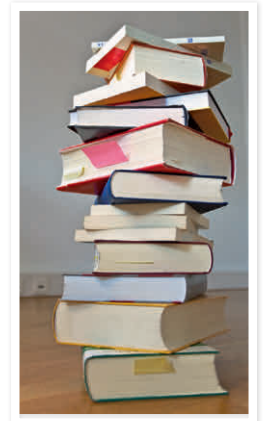
Verbs to use instead of "show"

to define	love / success as
to demonstrate	the importance of
to explain	the meaning of
to illustrate	the relationship between
to introduce	the possibility of
to represent	the view of
to suggest	the need for



Adjectives to describe style

complex	many different ideas which make it difficult to understand
exact	very precise
formal	respectful and correct, following rules
honest	direct, tells the truth
humorous	full of humour, funny
informal	everyday language, casual
informative	giving useful or interesting information
ironic	meaning the opposite of what is said / written
objective	based on facts
poetic	expressing ideas very sensitively or with great imagination
suspenseful	creating excitement / suspense
vague	not explained very clearly



1 evidence [ˈeɪdɪns] Beleg, Beweis 2 appearance [əˈpiərəns] Aussehen