

## Style Analysis Notes

Domain	Questions to Ask
<b>Imagery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sensory details</li> <li>▪ Words/phrases</li> <li>▪ Effect/intent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What sensory information do I find in the language: color, scents, sounds, tastes, or textures?</li> <li>▪ What is the author trying to convey or achieve by using this imagery?</li> <li>▪ Are these images part of a larger pattern or structure within the text (e.g., does it connect to one of the major themes)?</li> <li>▪ What figures of speech—metaphors, similes, analogies, personification—does the writer use? How do they affect the meaning of the text? What is the author trying to accomplish by using them?</li> </ul>
<b>Diction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Denotation</li> <li>▪ Connotation</li> <li>▪ Types</li> <li>▪ Slang</li> <li>▪ Colloquial</li> <li>▪ Jargon</li> <li>▪ Dialect</li> <li>▪ Concrete</li> <li>▪ Abstract</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Which of the following categories best describes the diction in the text? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low or informal (e.g., dialect, slang, or jargon)</li> <li>• Elevated or formal language</li> <li>• Abstract and concrete diction</li> <li>• Denotation and connotation</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ What effect is the author trying to achieve through the use of a specific type of diction?</li> <li>▪ What does the author’s use of diction suggest about his or her attitude toward the subject, event, or character?</li> <li>▪ What are the connotations of a given word used in a particular context? (To <i>begin</i>, you might ask if the word(s) have a positive or negative connotation, then consider them in the specific context.)</li> <li>▪ What words best describe the diction in a passage or the text in general?</li> </ul>
<b>Syntax</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Simple</li> <li>▪ Compound</li> <li>▪ Complex</li> <li>▪ Comp-Complex</li> <li>▪ Parallelism</li> <li>▪ Repetition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Punctuation</i>: How does the author punctuate the sentence and to what extent does the punctuation affect the meaning?</li> <li>▪ <i>Structure</i>: How are words and phrases arranged within the sentence? What is the author trying to accomplish through this arrangement?</li> <li>▪ How would you characterize the author’s syntax in this text?</li> <li>▪ <i>Changes</i>: Are there places where the syntax clearly changes? If so, where, how, and why?</li> <li>▪ <i>Sentence length</i>: How many words are in the different sentences? Do you notice any pattern (e.g., a cluster of short sentences of a particular type)?</li> <li>▪ <i>Devices</i>: How would you describe the author’s use of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent and dependent clauses</li> <li>• Coordinating, subordinating, or correlative conjunctions</li> <li>• Repetition</li> <li>• Parallelism</li> <li>• Fragments</li> <li>• Comparisons</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Sentence beginnings</i>: How does the author begin his or her sentences?</li> </ul>
<b>Attitude (Tone)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Word choice</li> <li>▪ Details</li> <li>▪ Imagery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How does the author’s use of words, imagery, or details such as gesture reveal the author’s attitude toward a character or event in the text?</li> <li>▪ What words best describe the author’s attitude toward this subject, character, or event?</li> </ul>
<b>Literary Elements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Setting</li> <li>▪ Characterization</li> <li>▪ Plot</li> <li>▪ Theme</li> <li>▪ Point of View</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How does the author’s use of these different elements contribute to the text’s meaning?</li> <li>▪ <input type="checkbox"/> Do the different elements interact with or otherwise affect the meaning of the others?</li> <li>▪ <input type="checkbox"/> Do you notice any significant shifts in any of the elements at any point? If so, what changes, how, and why? What is the importance and meaning of this change?</li> <li>▪ What words best describe the different use of these elements? For example, how would you describe the point of view and the effect it has on the meaning of the text?</li> </ul>

<p><b>Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compare/Contrast</li> <li>▪ Importance</li> <li>▪ Chronology</li> <li>▪ Cause-Effect</li> <li>▪ Order of degree</li> <li>▪ Classification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Which organizational pattern does the author use?</li> <li>▪ Why does the author choose to use that particular organizational strategy?</li> <li>▪ Are there places where the author blends or alternates between different organizational patterns? If so, what is the author trying to accomplish by mixing them in these ways?</li> <li>▪ To what extent and in what ways do you think the author's organizational strategy is effective? Why?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Types of Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Narrative</li> <li>▪ Persuasive</li> <li>▪ Expository</li> <li>▪ Descriptive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Exposition</i>: Is the author defining, comparing, classifying, analyzing (a process), describing, or narrating?</li> <li>▪ <i>Persuasion</i>: Is the author arguing about what something means, whether something is true, which alternative is the best (or most important), or what course of action someone should take?</li> <li>▪ <i>General</i>: What is the author trying to accomplish? How is the writer using e.g., narrative to solve that problem?</li> </ul>

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