

Understanding Writing and Essay Language

Terms to Know

Picture this: Your teacher gave you a writing assignment, but you read it and understand nothing. First things first - find the key phrases!



Analyze

Look at the situation/prompt and determine what is happening and why



Determine

Look at the topic/prompt and make a clear decision about it

Discuss

Talk about the topic and any ideas surrounding it



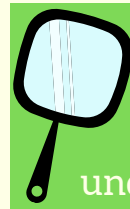
Argue

Make a direct point and persuade your reader to agree with your position



Reflect

Connect your understanding of the topic back to your own experience

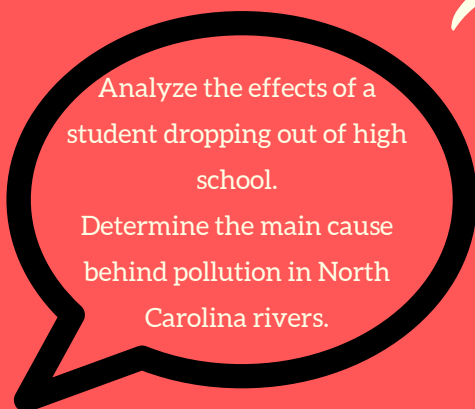


What To Do Next

Once you figure out what your instructor is asking, then think about how to apply that to your assignment.

Look for specific information

Who or what is your instructor asking you to write about?



Tip: Highlight the key words or phrases!



Make connections

Now, take those keywords you just highlighted and think about how they relate to the main question your instructor needs answered.



Outline Your Draft

Any time you have a complicated question, make an outline! It will help you find the best organization and clarity for your paper.



What Does That Look Like?

Reading it and seeing it are two different things. Check out these examples to get a better understanding of writing and essay language.

Prompt

Argue why smart phones are a benefit to today's youth using examples.



Highlight

Argue why smart phones are a benefit to today's youth using examples.



Outline

Thesis: Smart phones benefit today's youth in many ways, such as being portable, providing better access to internet, and allowing for more communication.

Example 1: Portable - easy to carry and can be used all the time

Example 2: Internet access - can be used to study, email teachers

Example 3: Communication - able to talk to friends from all across the world

Conclusion: Highlight each main point and solidify your argument

Connect



Benefits of a smart phone: easy to carry, access internet, talk to friends