Filled Example Outline: Three Analytical Models

1. Literary Analysis Example: *Symbolism in The Great Gatsby*

Thesis: Fitzgerald uses green and yellow color symbolism to reveal the corruption of the American Dream, where green represents unattainable ideals and yellow represents the false gold of moral emptiness.

- **Introduction:**
  - **Hook:** The green light at the end of Daisy's dock is one of literature's most recognized symbols, but what does it truly signify?
  - **Context:** Set in the Jazz Age, F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel critiques wealth and class.
- **Body Paragraph (The TEAL Method):**
  - **Topic Sentence:** The green light symbolizes Gatsby's impossible and receding dream.
  - **Evidence:** "Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us" (180).
  - **Analysis:** This distant light represents dreams that remain forever out of reach. The physical distance between Gatsby and the light mirrors the social distance between his new money and Daisy's established status.
- **Conclusion:**
  - **Restated Thesis:** Fitzgerald uses green and yellow to show how American dreams are both unattainable and morally compromised.

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2. Rhetorical Analysis Example: *Persuasion in a Speech*

Thesis: Through the use of urgent metaphors and logical appeals (logos), the speaker establishes a sense of inevitable crisis to persuade the audience toward immediate policy reform.

- **Introduction:**
  - **Context:** Identify the speaker, the specific speech, and the historical occasion or audience.
- **Body Paragraph:**
  - **Topic Sentence:** The speaker utilizes "fire" metaphors to instill a sense of immediate danger.
  - **Evidence:** The speaker describes the current economy as a "house on fire" with "flames licking the rafters."
  - **Analysis:** By comparing a complex economic issue to a simple physical threat, the speaker bypasses intellectual hesitation and triggers an emotional, survival-based response. This framing makes any delay in reform seem like a choice to let the "house" burn down.
- **Conclusion:**
  - **Synthesis:** The combination of emotional imagery and statistical data creates a persuasive "pincer move" that leaves the audience with no logical alternative but to support the reform.

3. Causal Analysis Example: *The Causes of Historical Decay*
Thesis: While many point to external invasions, the primary causes of the empire's collapse were internal: economic hyperinflation and the erosion of central political authority.

- **Introduction:**
  - o **Context:** Briefly define the time period and the empire being analyzed.
- **Body Paragraph:**
  - o **Topic Sentence:** Economic instability created a foundation for collapse long before the first invaders arrived.
  - o **Evidence:** Historical records show the currency lost 90% of its value over a fifty-year period due to debasement.
  - o **Analysis:** This hyperinflation destroyed the middle class's purchasing power, leading to widespread civil unrest. Without a stable economy, the state could no longer fund its military, proving that internal fiscal health is the prerequisite for external defense.
- **Conclusion:**
  - o **Broader Significance:** This analysis suggests that modern states face greater threats from internal economic mismanagement than from external competition.

Quick Comparison Table

Essay Type	Primary Focus	Goal of Analysis
Literary	Themes, symbols, and characters	Interpret deeper meaning within a text
Rhetorical	Methods of persuasion and tone	Explain *how* an author influences an audience
Causal	Chain of events and their origins	Prove *why* something happened (cause/effect)