

ANALYSIS GUIDE (Full Detailed Content)

1. Example Analysis Worksheet

Use this worksheet each time you study a book report example. It helps you move from *passive reading* to *active analysis*, ensuring you notice structural patterns, analytical strategies, and writing techniques.

Section 1: Basic Information

Example Title: _____

Book Title: _____

Education Level (Elem/MS/HS/College): _____

What type of example is this?

- ☐ Fiction report
 - ☐ Non-fiction report
 - ☐ Biography
 - ☐ Literary analysis
 - ☐ Comparative analysis
 - ☐ Before/After revision example
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Section 2: Structural Mapping

Read the example and break its structure into labeled parts.

1. Introduction

- What background information does the writer give?
- How long is the introduction (in sentences)?
- Does it end with a clear thesis?

Notes:

2. Summary Section

- How much of the report is summary? Estimate percentage.

- Does the summary focus on main events only, or unnecessary detail?
- Is it chronological, thematic, or selective?

Notes:

3. Analytical Sections

- What major analytical categories appear?
(characters, themes, symbolism, argument evaluation, etc.)
- Does each paragraph make a clear claim?
- Does evidence support the analysis effectively?

Notes:

4. Conclusion

- Does it synthesize ideas rather than restate them?
- Does it explain broader significance?
- Does it reflect on message, theme, or contemporary relevance?

Notes:

Section 3: Thesis Evaluation

Copy the example's thesis:

Thesis:

Evaluate using the criteria below:

Criterion	Yes/No	Notes
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Makes an interpretive claim	☐	
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Criterion	Yes/No	Notes
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Goes beyond obvious observation ☐

Arguable (someone could disagree) ☐

Establishes direction for analysis ☐

Connects to broader significance ☐

Overall Thesis Quality:

☐ Strong ☐ Adequate ☐ Weak

Section 4: Evidence Integration

List **three pieces of textual evidence** used in the example and evaluate how well the writer integrates them.

Evidence (quote/scene)	Type (Quote/Paraphrase)	How is it used? (explanation quality)	Effective?
1. _____	_____	_____	☐ Yes / ☐ No
2. _____	_____	_____	☐ Yes / ☐ No
3. _____	_____	_____	☐ Yes / ☐ No

Section 5: Tone and Academic Style

Rate the example on the following:

Writing Quality	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
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Academic tone ☐ ☐ ☐

Paragraph cohesion ☐ ☐ ☐

Transition clarity ☐ ☐ ☐

Vocabulary level ☐ ☐ ☐

Sentence variety ☐ ☐ ☐

Comments:

Section 6: Key Takeaways You Can Apply

Identify **3–5 techniques** the example used that you want to incorporate into your own writing.

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
-

2. Technique Identification Checklist

Use this checklist while reviewing examples or writing your own report. It helps you spot the specific literary analysis techniques strong writers use.

A. Thesis & Argument

- ✓ Thesis makes an interpretive claim
 - ✓ Thesis is arguable—not factual
 - ✓ Thesis addresses *meaning*, not just events
 - ✓ Thesis implies structure for the rest of the report
 - ✓ Thesis connects book-specific details to broader themes
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B. Summary Quality

- ✓ Summary is concise (20–25% of total length)
 - ✓ Summary focuses on major events only
 - ✓ Summary highlights turning points relevant to themes or analysis
 - ✓ Summary avoids excessive detail, subplots, or character lists
 - ✓ Summary transitions smoothly into analysis
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C. Analytical Techniques

The example uses:

- ✓ Character motivation analysis
 - ✓ Theme development analysis
 - ✓ Symbolism interpretation
 - ✓ Structural analysis (plot, narration, point of view)
 - ✓ Historical or cultural context when relevant
 - ✓ Cause–effect reasoning
 - ✓ Comparison/contrast (if applicable)
 - ✓ Evaluation of author’s choices (tone, imagery, structure)
 - ✓ Discussion of broader significance of ideas
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D. Evidence Integration

- ✓ Evidence appears regularly—not just in isolated quotes
 - ✓ Quotes are short and purposeful (not overly long)
 - ✓ Paraphrases avoid copying text too closely
 - ✓ Each piece of evidence is followed by interpretation
 - ✓ Evidence always connects to the claim of the paragraph
 - ✓ Page numbers or chapters noted when appropriate (optional)
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E. Organization & Logical Flow

- ✓ Clear paragraph structure (claim → evidence → analysis)
 - ✓ Transitions between ideas are smooth
 - ✓ Report follows a logical progression
 - ✓ Writer avoids plot-retelling in analytical paragraphs
 - ✓ Each paragraph contributes to the thesis
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F. Academic Tone

- ✓ Uses present tense for literary discussion
 - ✓ Avoids slang or overly casual phrasing
 - ✓ Avoids first person unless assignment allows it
 - ✓ Uses precise vocabulary
 - ✓ Avoids vague words (“nice,” “good,” “interesting”)
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3. Pattern Recognition Guide

This guide trains you to identify recurring structural patterns across strong book report examples. Recognizing these patterns makes writing your own report exponentially easier.

Pattern 1: The “C-T-E” Paragraph (Claim–Text–Explanation)

Most strong analytical paragraphs follow the same blueprint:

1. **CLAIM** – A clear interpretive point
2. **TEXT** – Evidence or example from the book
3. **EXPLANATION** – Discussion showing *why* the evidence matters

Example Pattern:

Claim: The novel uses weather to symbolize emotional states.

Text: During the storm scene, Jonas finally confronts the truth.

Explanation: The chaotic weather parallels his emotional turmoil...

This pattern is nearly universal across strong examples.

Pattern 2: Summary → Analysis Transition

Strong examples avoid abrupt shifts by using transitional sentences such as:

- “This turning point reveals...”
- “This event becomes important because...”
- “The author uses this moment to show...”

Look for these transitions—they teach you how to move smoothly from retelling to interpreting.

Pattern 3: Thesis Embedded in Context

Strong introductions follow a common structure:

1. Book title, author, publication context
2. Brief orientation to main conflict or theme
3. **Interpretive thesis** explaining meaning or significance

Seeing this pattern repeated helps you learn what an introduction *should* do.

Pattern 4: Thematic Grouping

Analytical sections tend to group paragraphs by:

- Character development
- Themes

- Symbols
- Structure
- Social commentary
- Author purpose

Recognizing these categories helps you plan your own report without confusion.

Pattern 5: Synthesis Conclusion

Strong conclusions:

- Return to the thesis in a deeper way
- Synthesize major insights
- Discuss broader relevance
- Avoid repeating body paragraphs
- Sometimes highlight limitations or ambiguities (HS/College level)

Study how examples achieve a sense of closure + depth.

4. Thesis Quality Evaluation Tool

Use this tool to test whether a thesis is strong, adequate, or weak.

Criterion 1: Is the thesis interpretive rather than descriptive?

- ✗ Descriptive: “The book is about a boy who learns lessons.”
 - ✓ Interpretive: “The book argues that moral growth requires confronting injustice.”
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Criterion 2: Does the thesis make an arguable claim?

- ✗ Obvious: “Power corrupts people.”
 - ✓ Arguable: “The novel suggests corruption emerges not from power itself but from systems that reward obedience over integrity.”
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Criterion 3: Does the thesis reveal WHY or HOW the book conveys its message?

Look for language like:

- “By using...”
- “Through...”
- “The author demonstrates...”
- “The novel suggests...”

This shows analytical direction.

Criterion 4: Does the thesis connect to larger significance?

Strong theses link narrative events to broader ideas:

- society
 - morality
 - identity
 - politics
 - justice
 - human nature
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Criterion 5: Does the thesis predict the structure of the report?

A strong thesis sets up right expectations.

Example:

“Through characterization, symbolism, and narrative structure, the novel argues that fear sustains authoritarian power.”

→ Body paragraphs will cover characterization, symbolism, structure.

Thesis Evaluation Scale

Strong Thesis:

- Original, arguable, interpretive
- Provides analytical roadmap
- Connects to deeper significance

Adequate Thesis:

- Some interpretive insight
- Some arguability

- May be too general or predictable

Weak Thesis:

- Factual description
- Obvious or cliché
- No analytical direction
- Merely restates plot or theme