

## Analysis Explanation

Analyzing is different from summarizing. In a summary, the goal is to retell only the main ideas and relevant supporting details of a piece. In an analysis, the goal is to make an interpretation of a piece and explain why you believe the way that you do about it. When supporting your idea about a work, you must make sure that you supply valid reasons for your interpretation from the work itself or from other reliable outside sources.

There are three important parts to an analysis: the **claim**, the **evidence**, and the **warrant**.

- 1) The **claim** is your interpretation of the work. It is what you're trying to prove.
- 2) The **evidence** is the text from within the work or from reliable sources that support your interpretation. You usually want to supply several pieces of evidence so that your support is solid and, therefore, yields more credibility to your claim. The evidence can be quoted, paraphrased, or summarized. No matter how you choose to present the text, just make sure that you cite your source(s).
- 3) Lastly, the **warrant** is the explanation of why or how the evidence proves your claim. This part of the analysis is really where critical thinking is applied. You must make sure that you don't just repeat the evidence but thoroughly explain to your audience why it supports your interpretation. It helps if you think about each piece of evidence and ask yourself: why or how does this prove my claim?

The following is an example of how to analyze a work using the three aforementioned parts – claim, evidence, and warrant:

**Claim:**

*Dora the Explorer* is an educational T.V. show for kids.

**Evidence 1 (text example):**

First, Dora often uses colors and numbers to communicate various pieces of information to her young audience.

**Evidence 2 (text example):**

Second, the show uses simple words in English and Spanish to help unfold the plot.

**Evidence 2 (text example):**

Last, Dora often sings throughout each episode about tasks she is to complete.

**Warrant (Why or how does the evidence prove the claim?):**

The use of color and numbers helps prepare kids for the early stages of learning in preschool and kindergarten. Early exposure to these basics units of knowledge helps prepare children for their first few years in an educational setting. Additionally, the use of two languages in the show helps create young bilingual speakers. Early exposure to multiple languages will help prepare kids for the more intensive language lessons they will experience during high school and college. Last but not least, making songs out of the new information presented in the show helps kids remember, thus ensuring that the new knowledge is actually acquired and retained. In short, *Dora the Explorer* introduces a plethora of information that kids will use throughout their learning careers. Hence, the show provides the early seeds of learning that will be used and built upon for a lifetime.

## Analysis Worksheet

**Claim:**

**Evidence 1 (text example):**

**Evidence 2 (text example):**

**Evidence 2 (text example):**

**Warrant (Why or how does the evidence prove the claim?):**