Writing Analysis

**Analyze (verb):** to break into parts and study/discuss each part

**Analysis (noun):** a careful examination of something in order to

understand it better

People analyze things all day long. When we ask ourselves things

like, “What did he/she mean by that comment?” or “Why did I just

do that?”, we are analyzing situations. When we judge people based on their behavior or even something as silly as their clothing, we are analyzing that person. It’s human nature for us to break things down and think about/discuss them.

Analysis is also an important part of writing. When writers are trying to prove that their argument or claim makes sense, they must first support it with reasons and evidence. In addition, they must **analyze**—or break down and study/discuss—each piece of evidence in order to explain to the reader how that evidence supports their reasons. This type of writing is called **analysis.**

“BUT HOW DO I DO THAT, MRS. FINLEY?!” you ask. Don’t worry—I’m here to help!

Every time you analyze a piece of evidence, begin by asking yourself/thinking about these questions in relation to that piece of evidence:

1. What does this specific piece of evidence mean?
2. What does this specific piece of evidence prove/show/suggest/reveal about the reason/claim you’re supporting?
3. Why is this important (in relation to the reason/claim you’re supporting)?
4. What do some of the specific words in the quote prove/show/suggest/reveal?

Choose at least two of these questions to answer. Then, write two sentences of analysis for that piece of evidence. Use the following sentence starters to begin your analysis:

* This means that…
* This proves that…
* This shows that…
* This suggests that…
* This reveals that…
* This is important because…
* The words “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” prove/show/suggest/reveal that…

**DO NOT LOSE THIS! STAPLE OR GLUE IT INTO YOUR NOTEBOOK!**