

ANALYSIS OF AN ARTICLE OR BOOK

PREPARATORY STEPS:

You can write a good analysis if you have read the book with care and if you have acquired some information on the author and/or the subject. Before you write your analysis, you should consider the following preparatory steps:

- ❖ Leaf through the whole book or article. Look at the Table of Contents. Get a notion of the book's structure.
- ❖ Read the introduction of the book or the first introductory paragraphs of an article, and the conclusion to confirm the author's intention.
- ❖ Read the main part of the book or article, keeping in mind the author's stated intention.

Try to identify any conditions listed or mentioned; try to imagine how it would be if the author's conditions were not realized; try to discover whether he has forgotten any conditions in his study. How much and what has the author taken for granted?

YOUR ANALYSIS SHOULD CONSIDER SOME OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS/QUESTIONS:

- ❖ What is the article/book about?
- ❖ Give key ideas plus examples to illustrate them (a short summary).
- ❖ Which ideas are more important than other ideas?
- ❖ Of what significance is the title of the book/article?
- ❖ What was the author's purpose in writing this book/article?
- ❖ What new concepts are introduced in this book/article? What data does the author use? What facts and what kind of events are included?
- ❖ Compare this author's ideas with other writers' views or the material already discussed in class.
- ❖ Have you encountered a contrasting study before?



- ❖ Compare the two articles/books.
- ❖ Evaluate these ideas.
- ❖ Does the author give sufficient evidence to back up his points?
- ❖ Do they make sense to you?
- ❖ Can they be applied to your everyday life?
- ❖ Even if material seems at first unrelated to your experience, look for general principles that would be more relevant.
- ❖ Which of the author's ideas is most striking?
- ❖ How well has the author fulfilled his purpose?
- ❖ How will the author's ideas influence your actions in the future?
- ❖ Will he have much influence on the rest of society?
- ❖ What categories of people might find this information useful?
- ❖ Relate these ideas to the larger field of subject matter of which this work is a part.
- ❖ Evaluate the author's style.
- ❖ Is he readable?
- ❖ How well does he make his points? Give examples.
- ❖ Can you check the argument used? Do events support it?
- ❖ Can you arrive at a different conclusion even though you use the same data?
- ❖ Is the author's method or theory applicable elsewhere? Why or why not?
- ❖ Of what relevance is the author's background to this particular work? Place this book/article in perspective: when was it written, what nationality is the author, etc...

REMEMBER. . .

These points should appear as a coherent whole rather than as separate points. The format suggested here should be revised according to the characteristics of the book/article in question and to the directions of the teacher.