

Rhetorical Reading Analysis

(Exposition/Description)

How does the author open,
develop and end the writing?

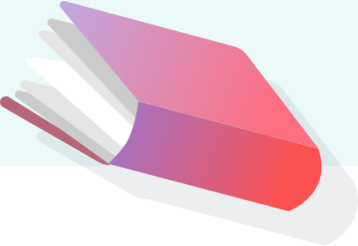
Rhetorical reading analysis:

- Topic/Theme
 - Main idea
 - (Supporting ideas)
 - (Supporting details)
- What it says?
- Purpose of writing
 - Mode of discourse
 - Organizational pattern
 - Structure (outline)
2. Write an outline of the text.
- Parts and roles/uses
 - Supporting ideas
 - Supporting details
3. Language features/Rhetorical devices
- What it does?
(How it says?)

Rhetorical Reading Analysis of Argumentation

- **Topic/theme, purpose of writing, mode of discourse**
- **Argument (overall claim)** (explicit/implicit)
- **Structure:** Different parts & roles (Introduction, body, conclusion)
- **Sub-claims & supporting evidence** (statistics, examples, research...)
- **Way of development** (general to specific/specific to general)
- **Perspective of writing**
- **Type of argumentation:** opinion, persuasive, argumentative
- **Modes of persuasion** (ethos, pathos, logos); Logical reasoning
- **Language features, rhetorical devices**





Thank you, Ma'am (Narration)

- Mode of *discourse*/Form of *composition*:

Narration

- Subject matter/Topic:

Explicit or implicit?

- Main idea:

Explicit or implicit?

- Structure:

Introduction: *Para. 1*
(Beginning)

Body: *Para. 2-45*
(Development)

Conclusion: *Para. 46-47*
(Ending)

- Elements of a narration:

The time:

The place:

The characters:

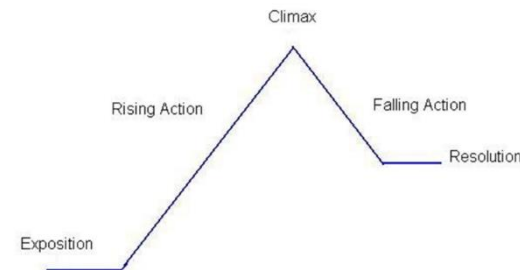
The events:

The order:

The narrator/point of view:

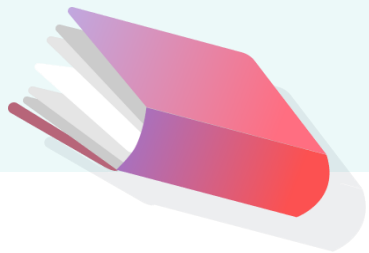
POV: 3rd person

Narrator: 3rd person omniscient



- Organization: **plotting**





Thank you, Ma'am (Narration)

- **Where** did the story happen/occur/take place?
- **When** did the story ~?
- **Who** were there in the story?
Who are the main characters?
Who are the minor characters?
Who is the protagonist/antagonist in the story?
What are they?
- **What** happened in this story?
- **How** does the writer arrange the events?
How/in what way is the story told/unfolded?
- From **which/whose** point of view is the story told? Is the **narrator** a participant in, or a witness to, the action? **Why? How much** does the narrator know?

- **Elements of a narration:**

The time:

The place:

The characters:

The events:

The order:

The narrator/point of view:

- **Outline of a narration:**

Title:

Topic:

Thesis:

Time:

Place:

Characters: { Major
Minor

Plot/Events:

- Exposition
- Rising action
- Climax
- Falling action
- Resolution



Rhetorical Precis/'preɪsi:/

A concise rhetorical analysis (summary and analysis) of an article with 4 sentences

1st sentence: main idea or topic (if there is no main idea in some subtypes/ baby modes, such as topic pattern or extended definition)

In the article, *The McGraw Center for Teaching & Learning in Princeton University* **provides** some **active reading strategies** for the undergraduates.

3rd sentence: purpose(s) of writing

The **purpose** of **offering** the strategies is to help the students “remember and analyze” what they read in their academic study.

2nd sentence: supporting ideas and ways of organization

This handout **explains/interprets** the strategies **in/from** 10 **aspects**, such as “Ask yourself pre-reading questions”, “Identify and define any unfamiliar terms”, “Bracket the main idea or thesis of the reading, and put an asterisk next to it”, etc.

/,et 'setərə/

4th sentence: audience and language style

Since the target readers are the undergraduates, the language is simple-styled but formal and instructive by using the imperative mood(祈使语气).

Formal language; reporting verbs

The McGraw Center
for Teaching & Learning



Active Reading Strategies: Remember and Analyze What You Read

Choose the strategies that work best for you or that best suit your purpose.

- **Ask yourself pre-reading questions.** For example: What is the topic, and what do you already know about it? Why has the instructor assigned this reading at this point in the semester?
- **Identify and define any unfamiliar terms.**

Group work: 20m's

Write a rhetorical precis of the article “Immobilization”.

RHETORICAL PRECIS of "Immobilization"

1st Sentence:
Main idea/Topic

In this essay, Dr. Wayne W. Dyer **explains** the term "immobilization".

2nd Sentence:
Supporting ideas
& how they are said

He **defines** it as "a state, however mild or serious, in which you are not functioning at the level that you would like to" and **proposes** "a brief checklist of some instances" of being immobilized.

3rd Sentence:
Purpose

Dr. Dyer's **purpose** of writing this article is to inform his readers of this negative state of mind in order to raise their awareness of it.

4th Sentence:
Audience & language style

Based on his use of the simple-styled language and many examples, Dr. Dyer primarily writes for **the general public** who are immobilized but may not be self-aware.

Writing a **Rhetorical** **Precis**/'preɪsi:/

*"How to Say
Thank You"*

The 4 sentences in Rhetorical Précis writing:

1. **Who** is the author? Where, when and **what is expressed**?
(strong reporting verbs)
 2. **How** does the author develop, structure, support...?
(modes of discourse, ways of development, organizational pattern, supporting ideas/sub-claims and developing details/evidence)
 3. **What is the purpose** of writing? (... in order to ...?)
 4. **For whom** does the author write? What about the **language**? (Rationale: target reader, background, language, rhetorical effectiveness, ...)
- 😊 **Language** (paraphrasing, reporting verbs, grammar, etc.)

Writing a **Rhetorical** **Precis**/'preɪsi:/

S1: Introduce the title, topic, author, main idea.

S2: Summarize the supporting ideas, way of organization.

S3: Summarize the purpose of writing the article.

S4: Explain the target audience and the language style.

- Based on correct understanding of the article.
- Write in one paragraph of 4 or more sentences, not a list.
- Write from the 3rd person's point of view.
- Use formal, reporting verbs (*state, explain, introduce ...*)
- Be logical, coherent, including only required information.
- Grammar, spelling, punctuation, choice of words



Purpose of writing: to explain/inform

Patterns of organization:

1. Topic pattern
2. Extended definition
3. Classification/Division
4. Spatial concepts
5. Chronological order
6. Process (Directional/Informational)
7. Comparison &/or Contrast
8. Cause & Effect
9. Focus on Causes/Effects
10. Pros & Cons
11. Problem-solution



Expository essay writing

Title: appropriate

Content: comparing cultures on a certain topic,
unity, coherence, logic

Structure: introduction – body – conclusion

Organizational pattern: subjects & points

Language: grammar, punctuation, spelling...

Handwriting: clean and tidy

Outline for Writing an Essay (P41, R&W-3)

Format: Sentence Outline for Writing Essays

Title of Your Composition

- I. Introduction
 - A. Introductory remark/Hook/Attention getter
 - B. Transition/Bridge
 - C. Thesis statement
 - D. Big picture (*optional*)
- II. Topic sentence 1 (Supporting idea 1)
 - A. Supporting detail 1
 - B. Supporting detail 2
 - C. . . .
- III. Topic sentence 2 (Supporting idea 2)
 - A. Supporting detail 1
 - B. Supporting detail 2
 - C. . . .
- IV. Topic sentence 3 (Supporting idea 3)
 - A. Supporting detail 1
 - B. Supporting detail 2
 - C. . . .
- V. Conclusion
 - Concluding statement

Learning Picture Writing

Step 4 (P55, R&W-3)



General
description

Q1: What idea does Mark Twain mainly want to tell us in this article?

Q2: How does Mark Twain develop his main idea?/How does Mark Twain describe his charming life at the farm?/From what aspects does Mark Twain describe his charming life at the farm?



Specific
description

☺ **Question as a reminder:** *Do you think there is only one answer to Q2?*

Q3: How/In what ways does Mark Twain organize his detailed ideas?

A. Thematic pattern

B. Spatial pattern

C. Impressionistic pattern



Describing a picture



- **Introduction:** *In this picture I can see.../The photo shows...*
- **Body:**
 - **Position:** *in the middle of the photo, in the foreground/background, next to, behind, in front of...*
 - **Actions:** *They are reading the newspaper, cooking...*
 - **Dressing:** *They are wearing... (use one or two adjectives to describe the clothes: pattern, colour, material...)*
 - **Appearance:** *The person looks/is... (use one or two adjectives to describe: look, build, height, eyes, skin, hair...)*
 - **Age:** *They are in their twenties/They are about twenty...*
 - **Role:** *He is probably a waiter, a student...*
 - **Feelings:** *He seems sad, frightened, happy...*
- **Conclusion:** your brief comments
In my opinion the photo is very funny, sad, interesting...



Learning Picture Writing

Way of development

- From general description to specific description
- From specific description to general description

Organizational patterns

- Thematic pattern
- Spatial pattern
- Impressionistic pattern

Language skills

- Choice of words (diction): general/specific words, synonyms
- Description from the five senses
- Facts & inferences
- Rhetorical devices

Purpose: to describe

Recap and Check – Picture Writing of Your Picture

➤ **Purpose: to describe with sensory details**

➤ **Way of development: general to specific**

- **General description:** overall description
- **Specific description:** specific details related to/supporting the overall description

➤ **Organization**

- **Pattern of organization:** thematic pattern, spatial pattern, impressionistic pattern

☐☐☐

➤ **Structure**

- **Completeness:** introduction – body – conclusion (concluding remark)
- **Introduction:** topic + general description
- **Body:** specific description, facts, inferences; unity (**no** irrelevant details or feelings)

➤ **Language:** diction, way of expression, grammar (tense), spelling, punctuation...

➤ **Handwriting:** clean and tidy

Good

☐☐

Need to improve

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Describe the graphs or charts, using what you've learned.

1. Describe the general situation or trend.
2. Describe some specific changes or details, with proper citation of numbers.
3. Draw proper conclusion, based on your analysis.
4. Use proper tenses and expressions for graphs/charts description.

Things to Notice:

1. Appropriate title
2. Structure: introduction, body, conclusion
3. Content: unified, general & specific description (relevant details on one topic)
4. Language: diction, proper expressions, grammar, punctuation ...
5. Handwriting: clean and tidy

GRAPH WRITING

Describing Graphs & Charts

1. A brief introduction of the graph
 2. Description of the general trend
 3. Description of relevant specific details
 4. Specific figures quoted when necessary
 5. Conclusion, summary or prediction at the end
- Ignore irrelevant numbers or figures.
 - Expressions for Describing Graphs & Charts (**R&W-4** 封底扫码)
- Introduction**
- Body: Supporting details**
- Conclusion**

Types of Argumentation Writing

1. **Opinion essay** (to express personal opinion)
2. **Persuasive essay** (to persuade/convince)
3. **Argumentative essay** (to argue)

A Nice Cup of Tea Opinion essay

I Want a Wife Persuasive essay

Argumentation Writing

Elements of argumentation

- **Claim:** A debatable point and a clear position
- **Evidence:** Sufficient and reliable
- **Reasoning:** Valid logic
(Induction or deduction)
- **Conclusion:** Overall argument/claim

Types of Argumentation

1. **Opinion essay** (to express opinion)
2. **Persuasive essay** (to persuade)
 - Audience
 - Mode of persuasion
3. **Argumentative essay** (to argue)