

Activity: Analyzing Expository Essays Tool

Note: The questions below are useful when teaching students to read mentor texts like a writer. As the essay is analyzed, help students notice how the author crafts the different elements and how these elements might be used in their own writing.

TITLE:

Expository Elements	Analysis and Responses
Clear, concise, and defined thesis statement	
What is the author's main thesis or central/controlling idea?	
Which approach (make a connection, refute an accepted idea, find something new, define, evaluate, propose a change) did the author use in building this thesis? Elaborate.	
Is this approach effective? If so, what makes it effective? If not, why not?	

Expository Elements		Analysis and Responses	
Strong introduction			
What type of introduction does the author use?			
Is the author's introduction effective? If so, what makes it effective? If not, what would improve it?			
Specific supporting details			
Do all of the body paragraphs have a logical connection to the thesis? Is each one limited to the explanation of one general idea?			
List some of the supporting details and explain whether they are effective in supporting the author's thesis. If so, what makes them effective? If not, what would improve them?			

Expository Elements	Analysis and Responses
Clearly organized structure	
<p>Is the essay well organized? Describe the type of organizational pattern that the author uses.</p>	
<p>Are the transitions effective in forming connections among ideas and sections of the essay? If so, what makes them effective? If not, what could improve them?</p>	
Strong conclusion	
<p>What type of conclusion does the author use?</p>	
<p>Is the author's conclusion effective? If so, what makes it effective? If not, what would improve it?</p>	

Expository Elements		Analysis and Responses	
Purposeful and precise word choice			
Is the author's word choice effective? If so, what makes it effective? If not, what would improve it?			
Varied sentence structure			
What types of sentences does the author use?			
Is the author's use of sentences effective? If so, what makes them effective? If not, what would improve them?			
Author's style or craft			
Which aspects of the author's writing style do you plan to incorporate in your next essay?			