

English 11/AP English Language and Composition
Checklist for Rhetorical Analysis

Introduction

- shows exigence of the issue
- shows exigence of the piece analyzed
- provides needed background
- moves to thesis (general to specific)

Thesis statement

- concise
- arguable
- impersonal
- analytical, follows our pattern: the piece accomplishes x through y

Body paragraphs

- topic sentences
 - refer to the thesis
 - cover what follows
- evidence
 - supports the thesis directly
 - proceeds logically
 - with appropriate transitions
 - is logical in itself
 - features short, frequent quotations
 - blended well
 - supporting main ideas
 - not interfering with student's own voice

Conclusion

- redefines thesis (doesn't *restate*)
- moves from specific to general
- suggests implications or future questions (without going so far as to posit a new thesis)

Style

- writing is grammatical, showing conversance with standard discourse
 - no fragments, run-ons, comma splices
- writing is effective, showing authority and persuasion
 - concise, effectively constructed sentences; strong word choice