

RECIPE FOR ANALYTICAL DESCRIPTION

1 The Topic Sentence - Take the question and restate it into a sentence that tells your stand and provides your answer. You must do all this without ever using the word "I" or any other personal pronoun.

2 Context and Set Up of the First Quote - Imagine that the person about to read your work has never read the book you are speaking about. Provide them with the essential information they will need to know to understand what is happening in the quote. Use words such as when/during/while/before/after, etc.. This may be more than one sentence.

3 Quote 1 - Use the quote that supports your claim from the topic sentence. This must be a direct quote. With quotation marks. Word for word from the text. You know. A quote. Cite it at the end using the title and the line numbers (Beowulf 541-544).

4 Explanation - Using an analysis verbs, explain why the quote supports your claim from the topic sentence.

5 Context and Set Up for the Second Quote - Transition using one of the time words (see above) again, set the context for the second quote you will use to support your claim. This might be more than one sentence.

6 Quote 2: Repeat step three, but with the second quote. Don't forget the citation.

7 Explanation - Same as step 4, but for the second quote.

8 Conclusion - Restate your topic and combine your writing with a similar concept or theme found in real life.

ANALYSIS WORDS

recognize

illustrate

show

Point out

infer

develop

identify

distinguish

demonstrate

compare

detect

represent

contrast

differentiate

translate

relate

EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH

In the story Beowulf, Beowulf proves himself stronger than all darkness by fighting the monster Grendel in Heorot, braving death to defend the honor of the Danes. Beowulf is a hero from Geatland. He comes to rescue the Danes from a monster named Grendel who has been terrorizing their Mead hall, Heorot, for twelve years. When he arrives on shore, the narrator describes him as, “greater and stronger than anyone anywhere in this world” (Beowulf 110-111). This illustrates the hyperbolic language the narrator uses to describe Beowulf’s monstrous size. Beowulf goes on to speak of the great number of monsters he has slain in the past, and claims that he comes in friendship to liberate the Danes from their menace. But Grendel is no small match for Beowulf. He is a descendant of Cain who can snatch up thirty soldiers at a time. However, Beowulf proves his bravery by forswearing any sword or armor. He says his king, “Might think less of me if I let my sword/ Go where my feet were afraid to, if I hid/ Behind some broad linden shield: my hands/ Alone shall fight for me, struggle for life/ Against the monster” (170-174). Not only does Beowulf journey to fight the monster, but his refusal to use any weapon shows how brave he really is. The monsters in the world today are less fantastic than Grendel, but fighting them requires no less bravery than Beowulf. The world needs more people to stand and fight, defending the dishonored, no matter the cost.