



# The Art of **Analysis**

Understanding How to Write about Literature



# What does it mean to **analyze**?

- To analyze is to examine a subject by separating it into its **parts**
- When analyzing literature, students examine how a work achieves a particular purpose by examining its **parts**
  - Characters
  - Symbols
  - Conflicts
  - Language



# An analytical essay...

- Is multi-paragraph essay with a specific structure
- Explains a **position** or opinion you have regarding a particular text
- Provides adequate **textual evidence** to support that position or opinion



# An analytical essay...

- Is **NOT** a summary of what happens in the book
- Is **NOT** a review of a book
- Is **NOT** just an expression of opinion



# Analysis Trivia:

How many paragraphs should an analytical essay have?



# Essay Format

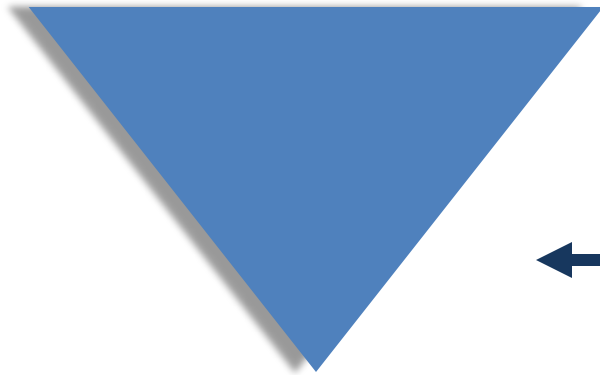
An **analysis** has 3 parts:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Body
- 3) Conclusion



# The of the Essay

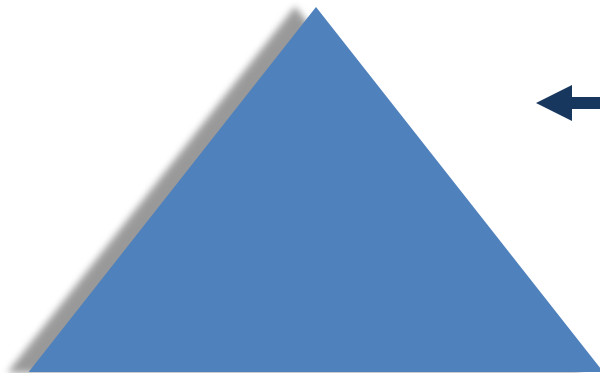
- 1) The thesis statement
- 2) Topic or main idea sentences
- 3) Closing or link sentences



Introductory Paragraph



Body Paragraphs



Concluding Paragraph





# The Introduction

## Part 1 (1-2 sentences): Hook

Grab your reader's attention with a hook that introduces your topic and that allows your reader to consider the validity of your topic in his or her world

## Part 2 (1-2 sentences): Transition

Get a little more specific; give background information or develop the hook with further detail; lead into the thesis

## Part 3 (1 sentence): Thesis

The main idea of your essay, stated in the form of a 1-sentence assertion



# Analysis Trivia:

How many pieces of evidence (quotes) should a body paragraph have?

# The Body

**M**

## Main idea or topic sentence

- Connects with the thesis
- States the main idea of the paragraph

**E**

## Evidence

- An example or illustration of the point you are trying to make
- Gets introduced with a lead-in and is documented with an in-text citation

**A**

## Analysis

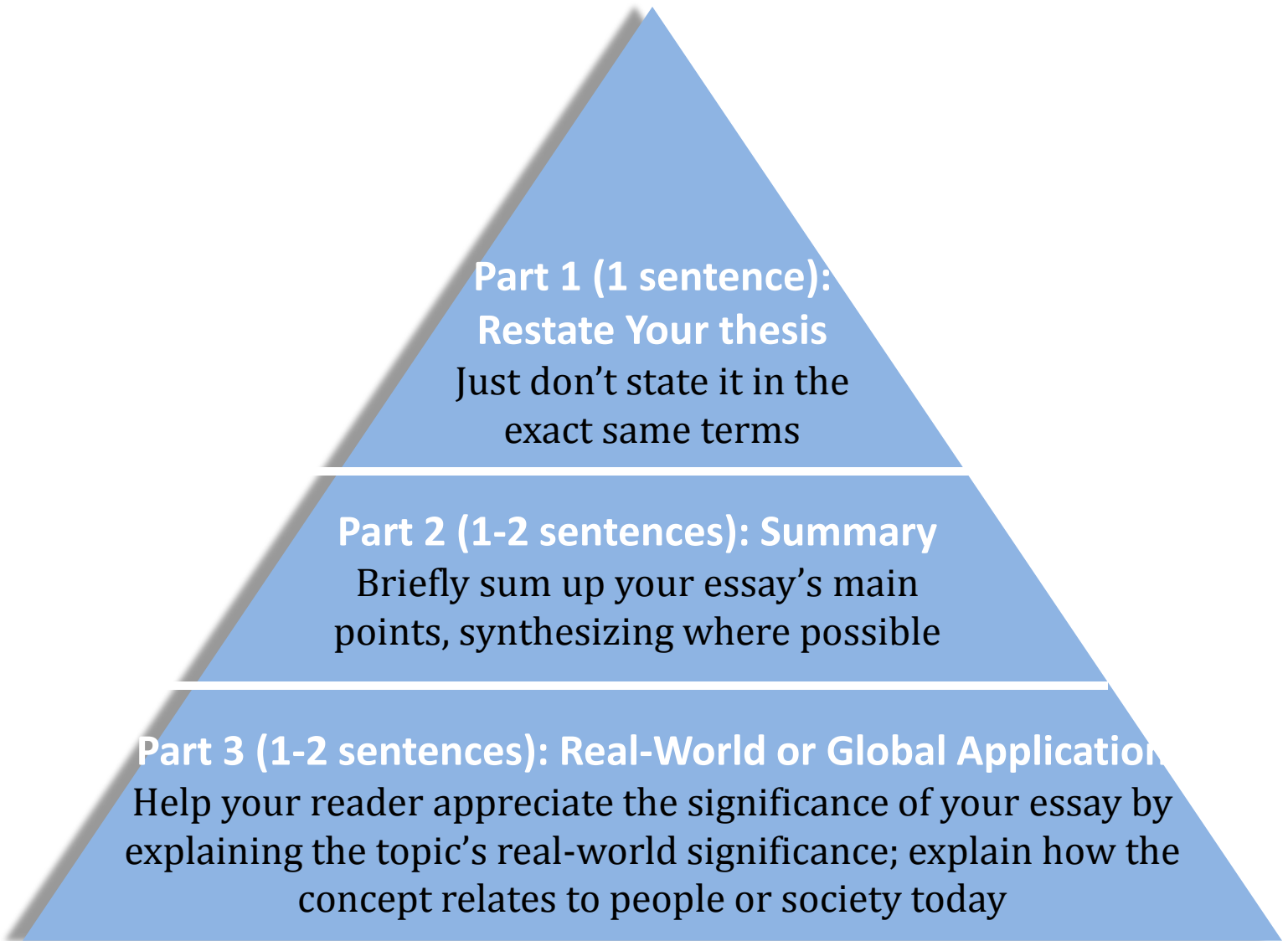
- An explanation of how the evidence proves the point you are trying to make

**L**

## Link or closing sentence

- “Links” the paragraph with the thesis statement
- States the significance of the entire paragraph

# The Conclusion



**Part 1 (1 sentence):**  
**Restate Your thesis**  
Just don't state it in the  
exact same terms

**Part 2 (1-2 sentences): Summary**  
Briefly sum up your essay's main  
points, synthesizing where possible

**Part 3 (1-2 sentences): Real-World or Global Application**  
Help your reader appreciate the significance of your essay by  
explaining the topic's real-world significance; explain how the  
concept relates to people or society today

# Transitions

Like shifting from one gear to the next in a car, a transition shifts

- From one example to another **within** a paragraph
- From one example to another **between** paragraphs





# Outlining Your Analytical Essay

- You will use an outline to organize your essay
- Preplanning ensures you don't forget anything
- It also ensures you don't get off track

# Outlining Your Analytical Essay

Title

Thesis:

I. Introduction

II. Main idea / topic sentence

A. Evidence & analysis

B. Evidence & analysis

III. Main idea / topic sentence

A. Evidence & analysis

B. Evidence & analysis

IV. Conclusion