### AP Style Analysis Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Questions to Ask</th>
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| Imagery          | • What sensory information do I find in the language: color, scents, sounds, tastes, or textures?  
 o Sensory details  
 o Symbols  
 o Allusions  
 o Words/phrases  
 o Effect/intent  
 o Connection to:  
 o Mood/tone  
 o Theme  
 o Plot  
 o Character  |
|                  | • Which of the following categories best describes the diction in the passage or text?  
 o Types  
 o Slang  
 o Colloquial  
 o Jargon  
 o Dialect  
 o Concrete  
 o Abstract  
 o Denotation  
 o Connotation  |
|                  | • What figures of speech—metaphors, similes, analogies, personification—does the writer use? How do they affect the meaning of the text? What is the author trying to accomplish by using them?  
 o Details  
 o Word choice  
 o Imagery  |
| Syntax           | • Punctuation: How does the author punctuate the sentence and to what extent does the punctuation affect the meaning?  
 o Sentence patterns  
 o Declarative  
 o Imperative  
 o Interrogative  
 o Exclamatory  
 o Simple  
 o Compound  
 o Complex  
 o Comp-Complex  
 o Loose/Cumulative  
 o Periodic  
 o Balanced  
 o Inversion  
 o Interruption  
 o Juxtaposition  
 o Parallelism  
 o Repetition  |
|                  | • Structure: How are words and phrases arranged within the sentence? What is the author trying to accomplish through this arrangement?  
 o Sentence length  
 o Changes: Are there places where the syntax clearly changes? If so, where, how, and why?  
 o Devices: How would you describe the author’s use of the following:  
 o Independent and dependent clauses  
 o Coordinating, subordinating, or correlative conjunctions  
 o Repetition  
 o Parallelism  
 o Fragments  
 o Comparisons  |
|                  | • How would you characterize the author’s syntax in this text?  
 o Allusions  
 o Symbols  |
|                  | • Sentence beginnings: How does the author begin his or her sentences? (Does the author, for example, consistently begin with introductory phrases or clauses?)  
 o Connotation and denotation  
 o Abstract and concrete diction  
 o Low or informal (e.g., dialect, slang, or jargon)  
 o Elevated or formal language  
 o Denotation and connotation  |
|                  | • What is the author trying to achieve through the use of a specific type of diction?  
 o Comparison  
 o Fragments  |
|                  | • What does the author’s use of diction suggest about his or her attitude toward the subject, event, or character?  
 o Repetition  |
|                  | • What are the connotations of a given word used in a particular context? (To begin, you might ask if the word(s) have a positive or negative connotation, then consider them in the specific context.)  
 o Reiteration  
 o Allusion  |
|                  | • What words would best describe the diction in a specific passage or the text in general?  
 o Repetition  |
| Attitude (Tone)  | • How does the author’s use of words, imagery, or details such as gesture or allusions reveal the author’s attitude toward a character or event in the story?  
 o Word choice  
 o Details  
 o Imagery  |
|                  | • What words best describe the author’s attitude toward this subject, character, or event?  
 o Allusions  
 o Symbols  |
| Literary Elements| • How does the author’s use of these different elements contribute to the text’s meaning?  
 o Setting  
 o Characterization  
 o Plot  
 o Theme  
 o Point of View  
 o Tone/Attitude  |
|                  | • Do the different elements interact with or otherwise affect the meaning of the others?  
 o Importance  
 o Chronology  
 o Cause-Effect  
 o Order of degree  
 o Classification  
 o Spatial  |
|                  | • Do you notice any significant shifts in any of the elements at any point? If so, what changes, how, and why? What is the importance and meaning of this change?  
 o Compare/Contrast  
 o Importance  
 o Chronology  
 o Order of degree  
 o Classification  |
|                  | • What words best describe the different use of these elements? For example, how would you describe the point of view and the effect it has on the meaning of the text?  
 o General: What is the author trying to accomplish? How is the writer using e.g., narrative to solve that problem?  
 o Exposition: Is the author defining, comparing, classifying, analyzing (a process), describing, or narrating?  
 o Persuasion: Is the author arguing about what something means, whether something is true, which alternative is the best (or most important), or what course of action someone should take?  
 o Figures of speech—metaphors, similes, analogies, personification—does the writer use? How do they affect the meaning of the text? What is the author trying to accomplish by using them?  
 o Reiteration  
 o Allusion  |
| Organization     | • Which organizational pattern does the author use?  
 o Compare/Contrast  
 o Importance  
 o Chronology  
 o Cause-Effect  
 o Order of degree  
 o Classification  |
|                  | • Why does the author choose to use that particular organizational strategy?  
 o Bits and pieces  
 o Repetition  |
|                  | • Are there places where the author blends or alternates between different organizational patterns? If so, what is the author trying to accomplish by mixing them in these ways?  
 o Sentences  
 o Word choice  |
|                  | • To what extent and in what ways do you think the author’s organizational strategy is effective? Why?  
 o Comparison  
 o Fragments  |
| Types of Writing | • Exposition: Is the author defining, comparing, classifying, analyzing (a process), describing, or narrating?  
 o Narrative  
 o Persuasive  
 o Expository  
 o Descriptive  |
|                  | • Persuasion: Is the author arguing about what something means, whether something is true, which alternative is the best (or most important), or what course of action someone should take?  
 o Figures of speech—metaphors, similes, analogies, personification—does the writer use? How do they affect the meaning of the text? What is the author trying to accomplish by using them?  
 o Reiteration  
 o Allusion  |

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