

## AP STYLE ANALYSIS NOTES

Domain	Questions to Ask
<p><b>Imagery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensory Details</li> <li>• Symbols</li> <li>• Allusions</li> <li>• Words/Phrases</li> <li>• Effect/Intent</li> <li>• Connection to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mood/Tone</li> <li>▪ Theme</li> <li>▪ Purpose</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sensory information do I find in the language: color, scents, sounds, tastes, or textures?</li> <li>• What is the author trying to convey or achieve by using this imagery?</li> <li>• Are these images part of a larger pattern or structure within the text (e.g., does it connect to one of the major themes)?</li> <li>• 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?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Diction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types</li> <li>• Slang</li> <li>• Colloquial</li> <li>• Jargon</li> <li>• Dialect</li> <li>• Concrete</li> <li>• Abstract</li> <li>• Denotation</li> <li>• Connotation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the following categories best describes the diction in the passage or text?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ low or informal (e.g., dialect, slang, or jargon)</li> <li>▪ elevated or formal language</li> <li>▪ abstract and concrete diction</li> <li>▪ denotation and connotation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What effect is the author trying to achieve through the use of a specific type of diction?</li> <li>• What does the author’s use of diction suggest about his or her attitude toward the subject, event, or audience?</li> <li>• 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.)</li> <li>• What words would best describe the diction in a specific passage or the text in general?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Syntax</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence Structure</li> <li>• Sentence Patterns</li> <li>• Declarative</li> <li>• Imperative</li> <li>• Interrogative</li> <li>• Exclamatory</li> <li>• Simple</li> <li>• Compound</li> <li>• Complex</li> <li>• Comp-Complex</li> <li>• Loose/Cumulative</li> <li>• Periodic</li> <li>• Balanced</li> <li>• Inversion</li> <li>• Interruption</li> <li>• Juxtaposition</li> <li>• Parallelism</li> <li>• Repetition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Punctuation: How does the author punctuate the sentence and to what extent does the punctuation affect the meaning?</li> <li>• Structure: How are words and phrases arranged within the sentence? What is the author trying to accomplish through this arrangement?</li> <li>• How would you characterize the author’s syntax in this text?</li> <li>• Changes: Are there places where the syntax clearly changes? If so, where, how, and why?</li> <li>• Sentence length: How many words are in the different sentences? Do you notice any pattern (e.g., a cluster of short sentences of a particular type)?</li> <li>• Devices: How would you describe the author’s use of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ independent and dependent clauses</li> <li>▪ coordinating, subordinating, or correlative conjunctions</li> <li>▪ repetition</li> <li>▪ parallelism</li> <li>▪ fragments</li> <li>▪ comparisons</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sentence beginnings: How does the author begin his or her sentences? (Does the author, for example, consistently begin with introductory phrases or clauses?)</li> <li>• Language: What use does the author make of figurative language or colloquial expressions?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Attitude (Tone)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Word Choice</li> <li>• Details</li> <li>• Imagery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the author’s use of words, imagery, or details such as gesture or allusions reveal the author’s attitude toward the subject, occasion, or audience?</li> <li>• What words best describe the author’s attitude toward this subject, character, or event?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare/Contrast</li> <li>• Importance</li> <li>• Chronology</li> <li>• Cause-Effect</li> <li>• Order of Degree</li> <li>• Classification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which organizational pattern does the author use?</li> <li>• Why does the author choose to use that particular organizational strategy?</li> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• To what extent and in what ways do you think the author’s organizational strategy is effective? Why?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Types of Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative</li> <li>• Persuasive</li> <li>• Expository</li> <li>• Descriptive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposition: Is the author defining, comparing, classifying, analyzing (a process), describing, or narrating?</li> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• General: What is the author trying to accomplish? How is the writer using e.g., narrative to solve that problem?</li> </ul>