

Writing an analysis: analysing properly

“Analysing a text” can mean a lot of things. In the ZP exam it usually means that you need to look at things that are not necessarily written in direct words, but that a careful reader understands.



How does this work in English? Here is an example. Read the following sentences carefully:

“What did you do now?” my mother asked me, her face turning red. I could almost see the smoke coming out of her ears.

How do you think the writer’s mother is feeling right now? Is she happy? Sad? Worried? Angry? The careful reader sees that the writer’s mother is angry, even though the writer did not say “My mother was angry.” The writer did this by writing about the mother’s face “turning red”, and by writing that he/she could imagine “smoke coming out of her ears.”

This is a typical analysis task:

Explain how Allie’s feelings change during the presentation.

To do this, look at how she acts and speaks at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of her presentation.



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Golden rules for analysing properly

- Rule no. 1** Give the facts: what, how and why? How do you know?
- Rule no. 2** Make sure you don’t leave out anything important.
- Rule no. 3** Help the reader understand how you understand the text by explaining what your impressions are and why you have them.
- Rule no. 4** Give a lot of details to make your point clear.
- Rule no. 5** Don’t make things up.

