

## Effective Analysis

### Part I: Note-Taking

**Directions:** Follow along with the teacher and take notes in the table below regarding what makes strong analysis.

Analysis is a **thoughtful examination and interpretation** of quotes from a text to **support and strengthen a claim**, offer **profound insight** to the reader's understanding of the text, and **enrich the overall quality and depth** of one's writing.

### Strong and Weak Examples of Analysis

#### Sample Claim and Evidence:

In "Fish Cheeks," Amy Tan often uses hyperbole to highlight how embarrassed she was by her Chinese identity when she was younger, illustrating the universal struggle many teenagers face as they suppress their cultural identities in a quest for acceptance. One Christmas Eve, her family had invited her crush, Robert, and his family over for a traditional Chinese dinner where she witnessed him react with visible discomfort and disrespect toward her family's food and mannerisms. Riddled with feelings of embarrassment, she states how she "wanted to disappear" when her father said that the fish cheeks were her favorite and that she was "stunned into silence" when he encouraged his guests to burp, a sign of satisfaction in their culture (3).

#### Strong Example:

Tan's description of her teenage self's overreaction conveys the profound embarrassment and internal conflict she felt when her family's culturally distinct food and behaviors hindered her desire to fit in and be liked by Robert. Rather than embracing who she is, the urge to "disappear" reveals her intense rejection of her own identity as they clash with Robert's American culture that she is exposed to outside her home. Thus, her sense of alienation underscores how many teenagers strive to assimilate and gain acceptance from their peers, often at the cost of denying their cultural identity, which is a significant part of who they are.

#### Non-Example:

This quote means that Amy Tan Was embarrassed of her Chinese heritage while also wanting to fit in with American culture. Her mom encourages her to accept herself.

Analysis should:

- **Explain the quote** thoroughly and insightfully
- **support** the claim and So What
- **Directly address** the prompt
- **Discover or reveal** (something) through a **detailed examination** of the quote
  - **focus on the words** themselves and what they reveal to you
  - Think of the **implicit meaning!**
- Be **2-3 sentences per quote**

Analysis should not:

- Explain the **obvious**
- Be a **summary** of the story
- Be **additional evidence or facts** from the story
- Be **one sentence** long
- **Detached** from the quote or its context
- Begin with **"This quote means..."** or **"This" phrases** in general. Instead be specific about what "this" is referring to.

**Your Analysis should Answer two questions:  
How and Why?**

#### Part I: How Analysis

How does this evidence **prove my claim**?

- How is the author/speaker using **specific words or literary devices** in the quote provided?

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do the <b>character's behaviors or choices</b> say about their personality, views, beliefs, qualities, longings, motives, intent, feelings, or attitude?</li> </ul> <p><i>Tip: Click <a href="#">here</a> for more potential questions to ask.</i></p>	<p>is, the urge to “disappear” reveals her intense rejection of her own identity as they clash with Robert’s American culture that she is exposed to outside her home.</p>
<p><b>Part II: Why Analysis</b> Why is this analysis <b>significant</b> or <b>insightful</b> to the reader? (So What?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why is this quote <b>so important</b>? Think about your So What.</li> <li>What does my quote highlight about <b>human nature and/or society</b>?</li> <li>How does my quote <b>enrich</b> the reader's <b>understanding of others</b>?</li> <li>Are there clear <b>political or socioeconomic</b> influences, pressures, or differences that can be explored through this quote?</li> </ul>	<p>Thus, her sense of alienation underscores how many teenagers strive to assimilate and gain acceptance from their peers, often at the cost of denying their cultural identity, which is a significant part of who they are.</p>

Sentence Starters	
How Analysis	Why Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In other words, the character/speaker/ narrator/character is_____.</li> <li>At this point in the story/poem, the character/ speaker is _____.</li> <li>Here, we note that the character/speaker (feels/thinks/believes)_____.</li> <li>According to the author/character/speaker,_____.</li> <li>Basically, the author/character/speaker is saying_____.</li> <li>In making (state referenced comment or action), the character/speaker is_____.</li> <li>In the figurative sense/Figuratively speaking _____.</li> <li>In the literal sense/Literally speaking _____.</li> <li>The author/character/speaker’s use of the word/phrase_____ evokes/stresses/appeals to _____.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From (refer back to text), (I/we/it) can infer that_____.</li> <li>_____ can be interpreted to mean_____.</li> <li>The author suggests/ conveys/ implies/ illustrates _____</li> <li>Through (refer back to evidence), the author sheds light on _____.</li> <li>In doing so, (character/topic/event) exhibits/struggles with_____.</li> <li>Because (refer back to the evidence), the character experiences/endures/faces _____.</li> <li>Like/Similar to _____, _____ is compared to _____ because_____</li> <li>The author makes this comparison because/so that _____</li> </ul>

## Part II: Reviewing Examples of Analysis

**Directions:** Highlight the analyses and reflect on whether or not they are successful examples. Color 1 = How Analysis / Explanation and color 2 = So what? / Insight

Claim and Evidence		
In Amy Tan's "Fish Cheeks," time plays a crucial role in helping her accept her cultural identity as she grows past her initial embarrassment and gains a deeper appreciation for her Chinese culture, revealing how maturity and distance enable a greater understanding and acceptance of one's self. Years after an awkward Christmas Eve dinner in which her family invited white guests to a traditional Chinese feast, Tan reflects on her mother's efforts to teach her about having pride in her family and identity. She notes that she didn't "agree with her [mother's advice] then" because of how much she "suffered during the evening's dinner." However, she "fully appreciated" her mother's lesson after realizing that her mother "had chosen all [her] favorite foods" for dinner that night (3).		
Analysis Chunk #1	Analysis Chunk #2	Analysis Chunk #3
Tan's reflection that she "fully appreciated" her mother's lesson only years later highlights how her understanding of her cultural identity evolved as she matured. Initially, Tan's embarrassment at the dinner prevented her from seeing her mother's gesture as an expression of love. Over time, however, she came to see that her mother's choice to prepare her favorite dishes was a way of showing care and teaching her to take pride in her heritage.	This quote means that Tan felt embarrassed by her Chinese culture when she was younger, but as she grew older, she came to appreciate it more. The story shows how she learned to accept her cultural identity over time.	Tan's eventual realization that her mother had chosen "all [her] favorite foods" years after the fact shows a deeper recognition of how her mother uses Chinese cooking and food as a symbol of her love, and it helps Tan understand that cultural pride is intricately linked to personal identity. The contrast between her initial embarrassment and her later appreciation reveals the complex process of reconciling conflicting emotions about one's heritage and how maturity and insight helps us understand what we did not when we were younger.
<b>What do you notice about this example of analysis? Is it strong, okay, or weak? Explain. (2-3 Sentences)</b>	<b>What do you notice about this example of analysis? Is it strong, okay, or weak? Explain. (2-3 Sentences)</b>	<b>What do you notice about this example of analysis? Is it strong, okay, or weak? Explain. (2-3 Sentences)</b>