

## Week 3: Analysis

“Analysis” can be tough to explain and even harder to do. Well, that’s not true. It’s not hard; it’s just misunderstood.

When we analyze something, we break it down into its component parts to see how it works (or doesn’t work). For example, if you really liked a movie, someone might ask you why you liked it. You would have to ANALYZE what it was about that movie that worked for you. Acting? Special effects? If you are having trouble in your relationship, you would need to ANALYZE what is going wrong.

The problem is, people sometimes confuse analysis with summary. Let’s say that you told me that you really liked the original Star Wars movie, and I asked you why. If this were your answer:

*Because at first Darth Vader’s ship captures Princess Leia’s and he takes her prisoner, but not before she’s able to send the Death Star plans to Tatooine with R2D2 and C3PO. Then, Luke’s uncle buys them...*

That’s not analysis, is it? That is simply summarizing what happens. THIS would be a better analysis:

*The acting was solid, the special effects were state of the art, and the storyline itself kept my attention and had me on the edge of my seat.*

See the difference?

So when we talk about an analysis essay (your next assignment), we are simply talking about analyzing how something works (or doesn’t).

READING:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/process-analysis-composition-1691680>

[http://www.jalc.edu/files/uploads/global/english/pdfs/writing\\_center\\_tutorials/10\\_process\\_analysis\\_how\\_to.pdf](http://www.jalc.edu/files/uploads/global/english/pdfs/writing_center_tutorials/10_process_analysis_how_to.pdf)

Chapter 11 (.pdf file attached)

Note that our discussions for the next two weeks will focus on analyzing a technical process, but the essay will focus on analyzing a piece of writing. That being the case, please closely review the two websites I have listed above, and also closely read Chapter 11 from the reading, so you can see how this process analysis and evaluation can apply to a piece of writing.

ANALYSIS DISCUSSION FORUM

Once you’ve completed the reading, go to the Analysis Discussion Forum link. Review my opening question and respond, and then respond to at least TWO of your classmates throughout the week.

**ASSIGNMENT**

No graded assignment this week.