

Methods of Development: Analyzing Essays

Strategies to Make a Point

1. **Compare and Contrast:** investigation of both similarities and differences; usually there will be a conclusion about which side is stronger
2. **Cause and Effect:** exploration of the reasons why something happens and what the result will be
3. **Example/Illustration:** carefully chosen examples are used to convince the reader
4. **Question and Answer:** a question is asked about an issue, then answered in several ways, showing why the writer's position is the strongest
5. **Reference to Authority:** calling on the opinion of an "expert in the field" to prove the point
6. **Statistics/ Concrete proof:** fact that isn't open to debate or interpretation
7. **Allusion:** a figure of speech that makes a reference or representation of or to a well-known person, place, event, literary work, myth, or work of art.
8. **Generalization:** author makes an assumption about the topic without accurately representing the population affected.
9. **Analogy:** Subject is compared to another point that is very different in order to clarify the meaning of the subject.
10. **Anecdote:** story about a related topic to make an example of the author's thesis.
11. **Colloquialism:** informal, often colourful expression; creates a sense of informal connection and shared cultural experience
12. **Descriptive Detail:** uses descriptive detail to structure and support the central argument by highlighting related, specific images
13. **Understatement:** deliberately minimizing the effects of an event, usually with the goal of ridicule or emphasis
14. **Figurative Language:** simile, metaphor, hyperbole, symbol, juxtaposition, imagery, alliteration, personification
15. **Diction:** use of specific words to create a description, humour, sarcasm

Most often used