

Analysis? What do I do?

What is an analysis essay?

- Objective:
 - 1. To extract a passage's meaning
AND
 - 2. Evaluate how the author uses rhetorical strategies to demonstrate that meaning

Before Constructing the Thesis:

- ORGANIZE!
 - Determine what the author is trying to say
 - Identify what strategies the author uses, and how they support the meaning of the passage
 - Outline!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Example prompt:

- The passage below is from *Last Child in the Woods* (2008) by Richard Louv. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-developed essay, analyze the rhetorical strategies Louv uses to develop his argument about the separation between people and nature. Support your analysis with specific references to the text.

Step One:

- What is the prompt asking?
 - focus
 - do not get distracted by extraneous ideas: if it doesn't have to do with the prompt - scrap it

First Step Cont'd:

- What is Louv saying about the separation between man and nature?
- What rhetorical strategies support his claim?

The Thesis:

- ARGUE

- The author isn't just "talking about the relationship between man and nature" and the author isn't "examining the relationship"
- The author is saying something about this relationship so TAKE A STANCE AND ARGUE
- A solid argument = a good essay

Step Two:

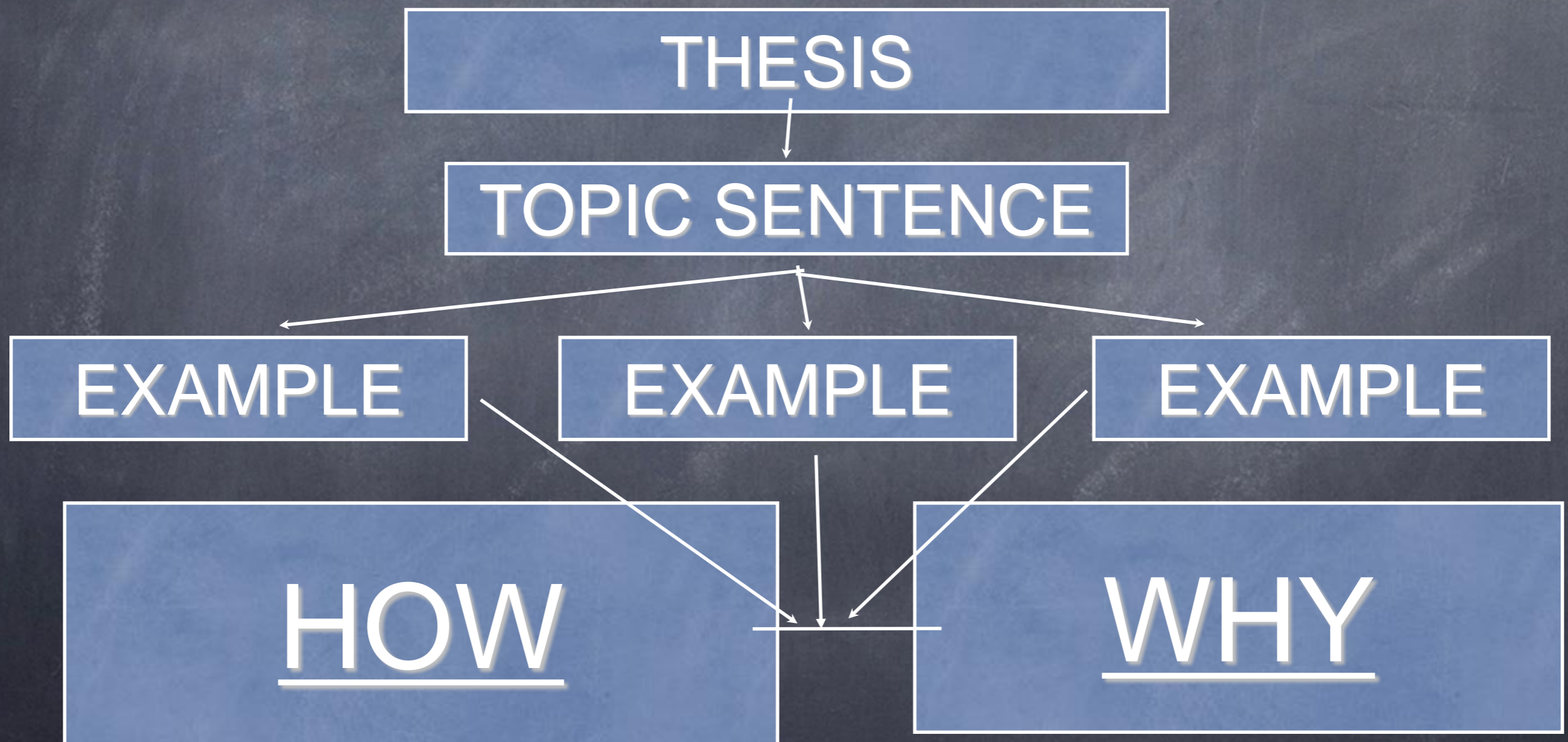
- A thesis consists of:
 - 1. What you think Louv says
 - HOW Louv uses rhetorical strategies (optional)
 - example: In the passage, Louv criticizes humanity, arguing that people no longer view nature with the importance and respect that it deserves.
- Why does that thesis work?

Step 3:

- Body paragraphs? Three of them?
 - PROVE
 - If your essay is an equation: $A + B + C = D$, the paragraphs are A, B, and C, and the thesis is D
 - Does not have to have 3 paragraphs, but each paragraph has to have developed and well supported ideas
- By chronology, theme, or rhetorical strategy

Step 3:

- Each paragraph should focus on ONE idea (focus = key!)



Organizing Body Paragraphs

- Plan
 - Example using chronology:
 - Thesis: In the passage, Louv criticizes humanity...
 - Begins with objective tone, researched-based facts
 - Introduces anecdote, addresses reader through questions
 - Uses “we” and nostalgic imagery to connect with reader
- If you can write a solid outline, then you know your thesis is strong

Body Paragraph Cont'd

- doesn't have to be specific strategy but broader or literary device or universal - take something from the passage and describe it
- no preconceived notions

The Introduction

- INTRODUCE

- Use an outside example to introduce the argument of your essay

- If your essay is on, say, women's rights, you could talk about other social activists and their methods of advocating for change

- Start far from your essay (grabber) and slowly move towards a specific thesis through the introduction

Let's Make An Introduction!

- “You’re talking a lot, but you’re not saying anything.” In the song “Psycho Killer” by The Talking Heads, singer David Byrne rants about society’s superficialities and flaws. Scorning society for “talking” more and “saying” less, Byrne comments on a perceived trend that society has become more focused on being obvious and accessible than on being meaningful. Though not focusing on society’s tendency for airy conversation, Louv reciprocates Byrne’s frustration. In the passage, Louv argues that this trend can be seen in more than just conversation. Louv criticizes humanity for no longer viewing nature with the reverence and respect that it deserves.

The Conclusion

- Do not just repeat the thesis
- Connect to a broader idea

Let's Make a Conclusion!

- Louv argues for the relevance of nature, highlighting how humans have defaced its cultural significance by using it for commercial means. Lamenting the increased absorption with technology, and the encouragement to overindulge in this consumerism, Louv asserts that humanity does not respect nature's essence. Using research, as well as personal anecdotes, he imbues his passage with legitimacy; the personal reverence for nature, as well as its relevance in a time of burgeoning dependence on technology, creates the intended horror at the thought of using butterfly wings for advertising, or vandalizing a state park for product placement.