

Analysis Frame: Informational Nonfiction

D48

Basic Analysis

- **Topic**—What is this selection about?
- **Main Idea**—What is the author’s main idea or message about this topic? What is the most important thing the writer wants you to understand?
- **Support**—What key points or ideas support the main idea?
- **Purpose**—What appears to be the author’s primary purpose for writing this piece? Is the author’s goal to explain an idea, report a discovery, or describe a process?
- **Evaluation**—How clear, interesting, accurate, and thorough is the author’s coverage of this topic?

In-Depth Analysis

Examine Form, Content, and Organization

- What form of writing is this (news article, feature article, report, textbook)? Based on this form, what do you expect to find as you read further?
- What do the headings and subheadings tell you about the content and organization of the selection?
- What pattern(s) of organization does the author use (chronological, sequential, spatial, order of importance, cause and effect, problem and solution)?
- What do you learn from this selection?

Examine the Author’s Purpose and Perspective

- What is the author’s primary purpose—to inform or explain, persuade, entertain, or express ideas or feelings?
- What does the author want you to understand, think about, believe, or do?
- What does the author’s writing reveal about his or her values, feelings, beliefs, and experiences?



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Analysis Frame: Informational Nonfiction (Part 2)

D49

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Examine the Writer's Craft

- What level of language does the writer use (informal, technical, formal)? How well does the language suit the writer's chosen form, topic, purpose, and intended audience?
- Describe the author's tone or attitude toward the topic (for instance, sarcastic, concerned, amused, irritated)? What effect does this tone have on your response to the selection, author, or topic?
- Does the author have a noticeable style? If so, describe it.

Evaluate and Critique

- Does the author's main idea, or message, come across clearly? If so, restate it in your own words. Is it adequately supported by the details in the selection? If not, where might more details be of help?
- Did any details strike you as unnecessary or confusing? If so, which ones?
- Did the selection cover the topic thoroughly enough to answer most of the questions it raised?
- Did the author's language and style help sustain your interest in the topic? Did they ever interfere with your ability to understand the material? Provide examples to support your answers.
- Did the selection seem objective and unbiased? What details led you to form this opinion?

