Analysis Toolbox

Choose your approach, or identify the approach you’ve been assigned to take. Are you going to analyze causes and effects? Ideas or arguments? Real people or fictional characters?

Separate the subject into parts. What cultures, places, or historical periods are relevant? What are some important themes or ideas connected with the subject? Who are the people involved?

Find out more about your topic. Research the culture or subculture surrounding it. Learn about the historical period and the people. Read about the author and target audiences of the texts you’ve read. Look up definitions of unfamiliar terms.

Make connections. How do the major ideas you’ve discussed in class relate to this subject? What affects the choices of the people involved? How do distant or historical events relate to your local, present-day experiences?