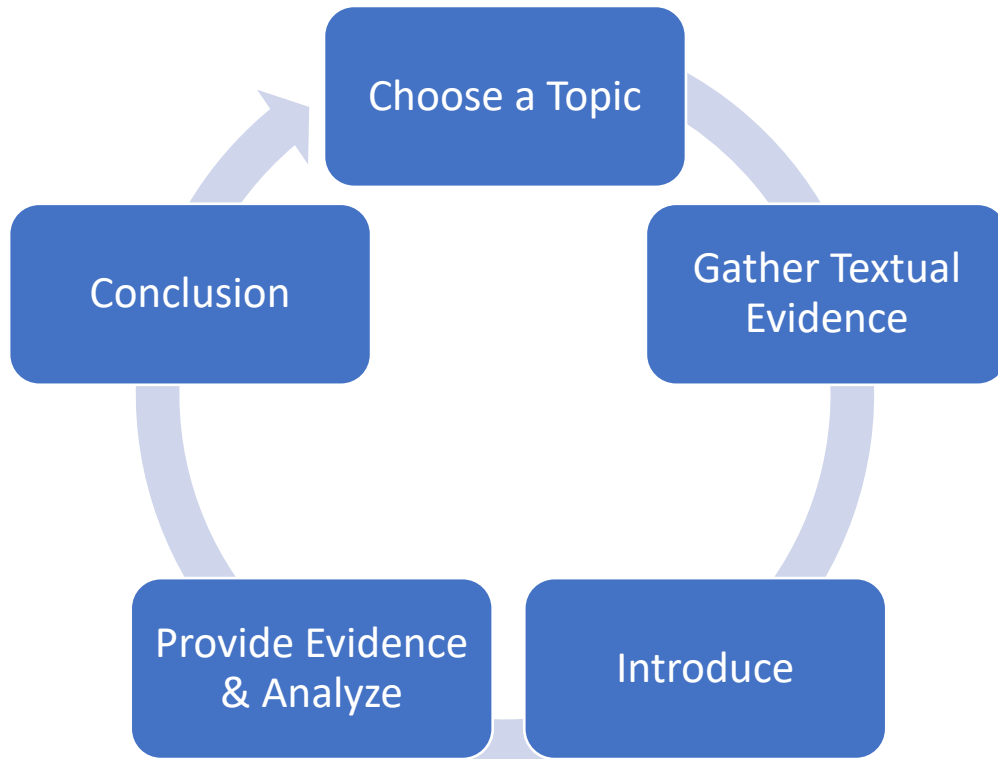


The Literary Analysis Process



The 5 Steps to a Comprehensive Literary Analysis

1. Choose a Topic

Topics can be divided into the main literary elements:

- Literary Devices
- Characterization
- Setting
- Plot
- Conflict
- Themes

Come up with a question to answer (thesis statement): What do you want to explore about the topic? Why does it stand out to you? Answer the "why" or "how" questions. Instead of simply describing the text, "why" or "how" push you to analyze and even synthesize.

2. Gather Textual Evidence

Identify common themes, repetitions, and patterns.

- Categorize elements, tone, and narrative style.
- Highlight characterization, setting, and foreshadowing.
- Label character types, symbols, and metaphors.

3. Introduce

Introduce your point in one or two clear topic sentences. Next, it's important to provide evidence that supports the main topic in order to convince the reader of the stated point of view. There are a few ways you can add your evidence.

4. Provide Evidence & Analyze

Evidence

- Quotation: Remember to use quotation marks
- Paraphrase: Students explain a piece of evidence using their own words.

Analyze

Analytical writing answers the "why" or "how" questions.

- **Why** is _____ important for the character/plot/theme?
- **How** does _____ develop or enhance the theme?

5. Conclusion

A strong conclusion (1-3 sentences) that outlines the main idea(s) of the analysis.