



How to Write an Analytical Paragraph: Practice Sheet

Practice Question: Based on the quotation below, does Greta Thunberg appear to believe that social media is a tool that can be used to help fight global warming?

“Global warming is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced.
This is not something you can like on Facebook.” (G. Thunberg)

Step 1: Do you feel that Thunberg is saying something good or bad about using Facebook to combat global warming? Your answer will form the first sentence of your paragraph—the topic sentence.

Step 2: Which words in the quote helped you to decide on your answer? Write a sentence that quotes (“...”) these words. Also, instead of *just* quoting the words, try to use your own words to explain what the quote shows.

Example: When Thunberg remarks that (QUOTE), she suggests that (EXPLANATION OF QUOTE).

Step 3: Remember that the quote in *step 2* is evidence for the opinion in *step 1*. In this third step, you want to explain that connection: how does your evidence support your opinion?

Step 4: If you feel that there is another idea that connects to your topic, you can repeat steps 1, 2 and 3 again in the same paragraph. When you have completed steps 1, 2 and 3, write a final sentence that reminds your reader what, overall, you have shown.



How to Write an Analytical Paragraph: Practice Sheet (Sample Answer)

Sample Question: Based on the quotation below, does Greta Thunberg appear to believe that social media can be a tool for good?

“Global warming is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced.
This is not something you can like on Facebook.” (G. Thunberg)

Step 1: INTRODUCE A TOPIC/POINT

In her remark about climate change, Greta Thunberg appears to believe that social media is not a very effective tool for addressing major world problems.

Step 2: INTRODUCE EVIDENCE

She implies this critical view by describing one of the typical actions of Facebook users, which is to click “like” in support of someone else’s post. Because this action is not capable of creating significant change, Thunberg **warns that*** combatting the planet’s rising temperature “is not something you can like on Facebook.”

Step 3: ANALYZE EVIDENCE

In other words, showing approval or concern through Facebook cannot produce the changes that the planet, or “humanity,” needs in order to survive.

Step 4: CLOSING STATEMENT

Thus, to the extent that Facebook is merely a series of platforms for sharing and supporting opinions and information, Thunberg believes that social media will not serve as a tool for Earth’s welfare.

***Note about using quotations:** In this sentence, the verbal phrase “warns that” is used to connect the author with her words. These phrases are usually called “signal phrases.” When students begin writing paragraphs, they tend to repeat “says” as the signal verb. However, there are many different verbs that express different attitudes about the quote. Whether an author “suggests” or “asserts” or “declares” or “insinuates” or “indicates” will help express your attitude to the sources that you are citing.