AP Style Analysis No Domain	Questions to Ask
Imagery	What sensory information do I find in the language: color, scents, sounds, tastes, or textures?
• Sensory details	What is the author trying to convey or achieve by using this imagery?
• Symbols	• Are these images part of a larger pattern or structure within the text (e.g., does it connect to one of the
• Allusions	major themes)?
Words/phrases	• What figures of speech—metaphors, similes, analogies, personification—does the writer use? How
• Effect/intent	do they affect the meaning of the text? What is the author trying to accomplish by using them?
• Connection to:	do they affect the meaning of the text? What is the author trying to accomplish by using them?
o Mood/tone	
o Theme	
o Plot	
o Character	
Diction	• Which of the following categories best describes the diction in the passage or text?
• Types	<ul> <li>Low or informal (e.g., dialect, slang, or jargon)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Slang</li> </ul>	o Elevated or formal language
<ul> <li>Colloquial</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Abstract and concrete diction</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Jargon</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Denotation and connotation</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Dialect</li> </ul>	What effect is the author trying to achieve through the use of a specific type of diction?
<ul> <li>Concrete</li> </ul>	• What does the author's use of diction suggest about his or hear attitude toward the subject, event, or
<ul> <li>Abstract</li> </ul>	character?
<ul> <li>Denotation</li> </ul>	• What are the connotations of a given word used in a particular context? (To begin, you might ask if
<ul> <li>Connotation</li> </ul>	the word(s) have a positive or negative connotation, then consider them in the specific context.)
	• What words would best describe the diction in a specific passage or the text in general?
Syntax	• <i>Punctuation</i> : How does the author punctuate the sentence and to what extent does the punctuation
Sentence structure	affect the meaning?
• Sentence patterns	• <i>Structure</i> : How are words and phrases arranged within the sentence? What is the author trying to
Declarative	accomplish through this arrangement?
• Imperative	How would you characterize the author's syntax in this text?
• Interrogative	• Changes: Are there places where the syntax clearly changes? If so, where, how, and why?
• Exclamatory	• Sentence length: How many words are in the different sentences? Do you notice any pattern (e.g., a
• Simple	cluster of short sentences of a particular type)?
• Compound	• Devices: How would you describe the author's use of the following:
• Complex	o Independent and dependent clauses
• Comp-Complex	<ul> <li>Coordinating, subordinating, or correlative conjunctions</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Loose/Cumulative</li> </ul>	o Repetition
<ul> <li>Periodic</li> </ul>	o Parallelism
<ul> <li>Balanced</li> </ul>	o Fragments
<ul> <li>Inversion</li> </ul>	o Comparisons
<ul> <li>Interruption</li> </ul>	• Sentence beginnings: How does the author begin his or her sentences? (Does the author, for example,
<ul> <li>Juxtaposition</li> </ul>	consistently begin with introductory phrases or clauses?
<ul> <li>Parallelism</li> </ul>	• Language: What use does the author make of figurative language or colloquial expressions?
<ul> <li>Repetition</li> </ul>	
Attitude (Tone)	How does the author's use of words, imagery, or details such as gesture or allusions reveal the
Word choice	author's attitude toward a character or event in the story?
• Details	• What words best describe the author's attitude toward this subject, character, or event?
• Imagery	
Literary Elements	How does the author's use of these different elements contribute to the text's meaning?
Setting	• Do the different elements interact with or otherwise affect the meaning of the others?
Characterization	• Do you notice any significant shifts in any of the elements at any point? If so, what changes, how,
• Plot	and why? What is the importance and meaning of this change?  What words best describe the different was of these elements? For example, how would you describe
• Theme	• What words best describe the different use of these elements? For example, how would you describe
• Point of View	the point of view and the effect it has on the meaning of the text?
• Tone/Attitude	THE CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT O
Organization	Which organizational pattern does the author use?
<ul> <li>Compare/Contrast</li> </ul>	Why does the author choose to use that particular organizational strategy?
• Importance	• Are there places where the author blends or alternates between different organizational patterns? If so
<ul> <li>Chronology</li> </ul>	what is the author trying to accomplish by mixing them in these ways?
<ul> <li>Cause-Effect</li> </ul>	• To what extent and in what ways do you think the author's organizational strategy is effective? Why?
<ul> <li>Order of degree</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Classification</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Spatial</li> </ul>	
Types of Writing	• Exposition: Is the author defining, comparing, classifying, analyzing (a process), describing, or
• Narrative	narrating?
• Persuasive	• <i>Persuasion</i> : Is the author arguing about what something means, whether something is true, which
• Expository	alternative is the best (or most important), or what course of action someone should take?
LAPOULUI Y	and matter to the obstact for most important,, or what course or action someone should take!
• Descriptive	• General: What is the author trying to accomplish? How is the writer using e.g., narrative to solve that