

## **Definition of the Analytical Essay for ESL 273**

(adapted from English Department Document)

*An analytical essay is a presentation of a writer's thinking in a logical sequence; it is an essay that includes a controlling idea based on text(s) and a student's critical engagement with that text.*

An analytical essay:

- Moves in a logical sequence based a controlling idea. This idea must be supported by evidence. The essay should use a variety of types of evidence including quotations, paraphrases and well-developed examples.
- Must show a clear connection of the evidence to the controlling idea. The essay should exhibit a conscious connection between parts. The essay should follow a logical order of thinking, and allow ideas to shape form.
- Shows clear critical thinking. Making inferences, interpreting evidence, anticipating readers' needs. Evidence of strong synthesis, argumentation, analysis, and/or problem-solving skills
- Demonstrates an awareness of multiple perspectives and moves well beyond narration & summary.
- Exhibits the writer's thinking process.