

Night
Style Analysis Essay (Pre-AP)

The primary objective of an author is to effectively communicate an idea to his/ her readers. In order to communicate such ideas, an author must use language to engage his/ her audience. This act of engagement is not always positive or uplifting. Authors will routinely engage readers by challenging them, angering them, or maybe even scaring them. To successfully capture the attention of their readers, authors rely on diction, structure, figurative language, and various other rhetorical strategies; it is the application of these rhetorical strategies that contributes to a reader's understanding of an author's style.

Consider the following list of rhetorical strategies or tools. From the list below, which strategies does Elie Wiesel use to effectively communicate his Holocaust experience? How do these strategies influence what Wiesel has to say?

1. diction, connotation, denotation
2. language, figurative language (figures of speech)
3. detail, imagery
4. point of view
5. organization, structure, order

For this essay, you will be analyzing Elie Wiesel's style, revealing what devices he uses to engage his readers. Decide on three devices for your three body paragraphs, and find examples and quotes for each. Your commentary or analysis is critical in this paper. In your thesis (last sentence of introduction), you must state how Wiesel attempts to engage his readers, and preview the three devices you've chosen to analyze.

An effective paper will...

- introduce the topic of author's style
- offer a clear thesis
- accurately and coherently incorporate textual evidence that supports the thesis
- provide commentary or analysis that develops the ideas presented in the paper
- show relationships among ideas and between paragraphs
- be thoroughly edited; eliminate gaps in logic and distracting mechanical errors

Example Thesis:

In the memoir *Night*, Elie Wiesel uses imagery, diction, and figures of speech in order to illustrate the daily atrocities experienced by those culturally oppressed in the Holocaust.

Thesis Templates

1) In the memoir *Night*, Elie Wiesel uses _____, _____, and _____ in order to
(Three strategies)

(Verb) ...

2) In Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Wiesel _____..._____, _____, and _____ ...
(Verb) (Three strategies)

3) Elie Wiesel, in his autobiography *Night*, uses _____, _____, and _____ to
(Three strategies)

(Verb) ...

The basic format of this essay is:

Introduction—with an opening quote as a hook and a thesis
Body Paragraph 1—examples and analysis of first device
Body Paragraph 2—examples and analysis of second device
Body Paragraph 3—examples and analysis of third device
Conclusion—make connections!

When you use direct quotes from the book, use quotation marks and parenthetical citations. Only the page number is necessary.

Example: “Where is God now . . . here He is—He is hanging here on this gallows. That night the soup tasted of corpses” (62).

Some definitions you may need:

Diction: word choice. What can the reader infer about the author’s attitude (tone) from word choice?

Connotation: implied, suggested meaning of a word, or feeling attached to a word.

Denotation: literal, dictionary definition of a word.

Language: includes figurative language (figures of speech) such as:

Alliteration—repetition of initial consonant sound
Allusion—indirect reference to a widely-known source
Understatement—to state with lack of emphasis for effect
Hyperbole—extreme exaggeration
Irony—use of words to convey opposite of their literal meaning
Simile—comparison using “like” or “as”
Metaphor—comparison of two seemingly dissimilar items
Oxymoron—combination of contradictory terms
Paradox—seemingly contradictory statement that holds truth
Personification—giving inanimate objects human-like qualities
Satire—wit used to expose human folly
Symbol—something that represents something else

Detail: concrete or specific information perceived through the five senses; the who, what, where, and when.

Imagery: a word picture, a repeated image.

Point of View: the voice through which an author presents a work of literature.

First person – I
Second person – you
Third person limited – he/she (we can read one character’s mind)
Third person omniscient – he/she (we can read many characters’ minds)

Organization: structure, order, patterns. Look for chronology, flashbacks, sequence, paragraphing.