

## Style Analysis

**Grade Level:** 9-12 grades

**Subject/Content:** English/Style Analysis

**Summary of Lesson:** Students review key elements of analyzing an author's style and practice the skill.

**Focus Questions:** What stylistic choices do authors make and why?

**Resource(s):** *Literature Resource Center* or *Contemporary Literary Criticism*

### Procedures:

1. Review the four main areas of focus when analyzing style: diction, sentence structure, treatment of subject matter, and figurative language. Below are suggested topics/concepts/terms to cover:
  - **Diction:** monosyllabic, polysyllabic, colloquial, informal, formal, old-fashioned, denotative, connotative, abstract, euphonious, cacophonous
  - **Sentence Structure** (Syntax): declarative, imperative, simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, juxtaposition, parallel structure, repetition, rhetorical question
  - **Treatment of Subject Matter:** subjective or objective
  - **Figurative Language:** simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, paradox, oxymoron, pun, irony, sarcasm, apostrophe, allusion, synecdoche, tone words, words that describe language

Step one may be new to students or a simple review. Spend as much time as your students need to fully understand these elements of analysis.

2. Instruct students to access *Literature Resource Center* or *Contemporary Literary Criticism* and search an author or title they read the previous year or over the summer. Have students print one article to analyze.
3. Have students use four different colored high lighters when reading the article. Have them use the different colors to highlight specific examples of diction, syntax, subject matter, and figurative language.
4. Instruct students to write an essay analyzing the diction, syntax, treatment of subject matter, and figurative language of the author. Have them explain what

elements the author chose and why. For this assignment the "why" should connect to the author's opinion on the piece he or she is criticizing.

**Steps/Activities by Student(s):**

1. Review the four main areas of focus when analyzing style: diction, sentence structure, treatment of subject matter, and figurative language.
2. Access *Literature Resource Center* or *Contemporary Literary Criticism* and search an author or title you read last year or over the summer. Print one article to analyze.
3. Use four different colored high lighters when reading the article. Use the different colors to highlight specific examples of diction, syntax, subject matter, and figurative language.
4. Write an essay analyzing the diction, syntax, treatment of subject matter, and figurative language of the author. Explain what elements the author chose and why. For this assignment the "why" should connect to the author's opinion on the piece he or she is criticizing.

**Outcome:** Students will review the key areas of style analysis. They will use this skill whenever they read nonfiction or fiction.

**Related Activities:** Students apply the skills of style analysis to a fiction selection.