



LEARNING MODULES

GK-12 DISSECT at New Mexico State University

Title: Prompt Analysis

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Discipline or Area:

Teacher: Timothy Staley

School: Onate High School

Subject of class: English Literature

Grade: 12

COVERAGE OF COMPUTATIONAL TOPICS

This module was designed to provide students with an algorithm for analyzing essay prompts.

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how to apply an algorithm to analyze an essay prompt.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

N/A

BACKGROUND AND REFERENCES

Every year, high school seniors and juniors are required to take the End of Course Literature Examination that tasks students to 1) answer multiple choice questions by thinking critically, and 2) write an essay that demonstrates their knowledge of the usage of literary elements in pieces of literature. This module aims to help students better prepare for the second element of the exam.

PROCEDURE

Detailed instructions on how this module is taught.

The students were walked through this algorithm to analyze an essay prompt by breaking it down into something they can understand:

1. Read the entire prompt
2. Break apart the sentences
3. Highlight important/confusing words/phrases
4. Replace ONE highlighted word/phrase with an equivalent form that makes sense to you
5. Repeat step 4 until there are no more highlighted words

Class example:

How do you look at a sentence/prompt and break it down into something less scary?

1. Read the entire prompt

Prompt:

Write a multiparagraph essay and support with evidence from literature you've read this school year. Identify a symbol and explain how that symbol was developed through the entire piece of literature.

2. Break apart the sentences

Write a multiparagraph essay and support with evidence from literature you've read this school year. Identify a symbol and explain how that symbol was developed through the entire piece of literature?

3. Highlight the words that are important

Write a **multiparagraph essay** and support with **evidence** from **literature** you've read this school year. Identify a **symbol** and explain how that symbol was **developed** through the entire **piece of literature**?

4. Replace one highlighted word with an equivalent form that makes sense to you

Write an **essay with 3-4 paragraphs** and support with evidence from literature you've read this school year. Identify a symbol and explain how that symbol was developed through the entire piece of literature?

5. Repeat step 4 until there are no more highlighted words

Write an **essay with 3-4 paragraphs** and support with **paraphrase, ideas, examples, scenarios** from literature you've read this school year.

Identify a symbol and explain how that symbol was developed through the entire piece of literature?

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Write an **essay with 3-4 paragraphs** and support with **quotes, examples, scenarios** from **a poem, short story, novel, or song** you've read this school year.

Identify a symbol and explain how that symbol was developed through the entire piece of literature?

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Write an **essay with 3-4 paragraphs** and support with **quotes, examples, scenarios** from **a poem, short story, novel, or song** you've read this school year.

Identify an **object that has a deeper meaning** and explain how that symbol was developed through the entire piece of literature?

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Write an **essay with 3-4 paragraphs** and support with **quotes, examples, scenarios** from **a poem, short story, novel, or song** you've read this school year.

Identify an **object that has a deeper meaning** and explain how that symbol was **unfolded or expanded to become more important** through the entire piece of literature?

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Write an **essay with 3-4 paragraphs** and support with **quotes, examples, scenarios** from **a poem, short story, novel, or song** you've read this school year.

Identify an **object that has a deeper meaning** and explain how that symbol was **unfolded or expanded to become more important** through the entire **poem, short story, novel, or song**?

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The new and easier-to-understand prompt:

Write an essay with 3-4 paragraphs and support with quotes, examples, or scenarios from a poem, short story, novel, or song you've read this school year. Identify an object that has a deeper meaning and explain how that symbol was unfolded or expanded to become more important through the entire poem, short story, novel, or song.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

What were challenges you encountered in the overall development of the module?

N/A

What was successful?

The prompt that was used as an example was taken directly from the End of Course Exam from the previous year, so it was relevant to the students.

How was the students' reception to the content of the module?

The students found the algorithm interesting and helpful because many of them stated that some essay prompts are intimidating.