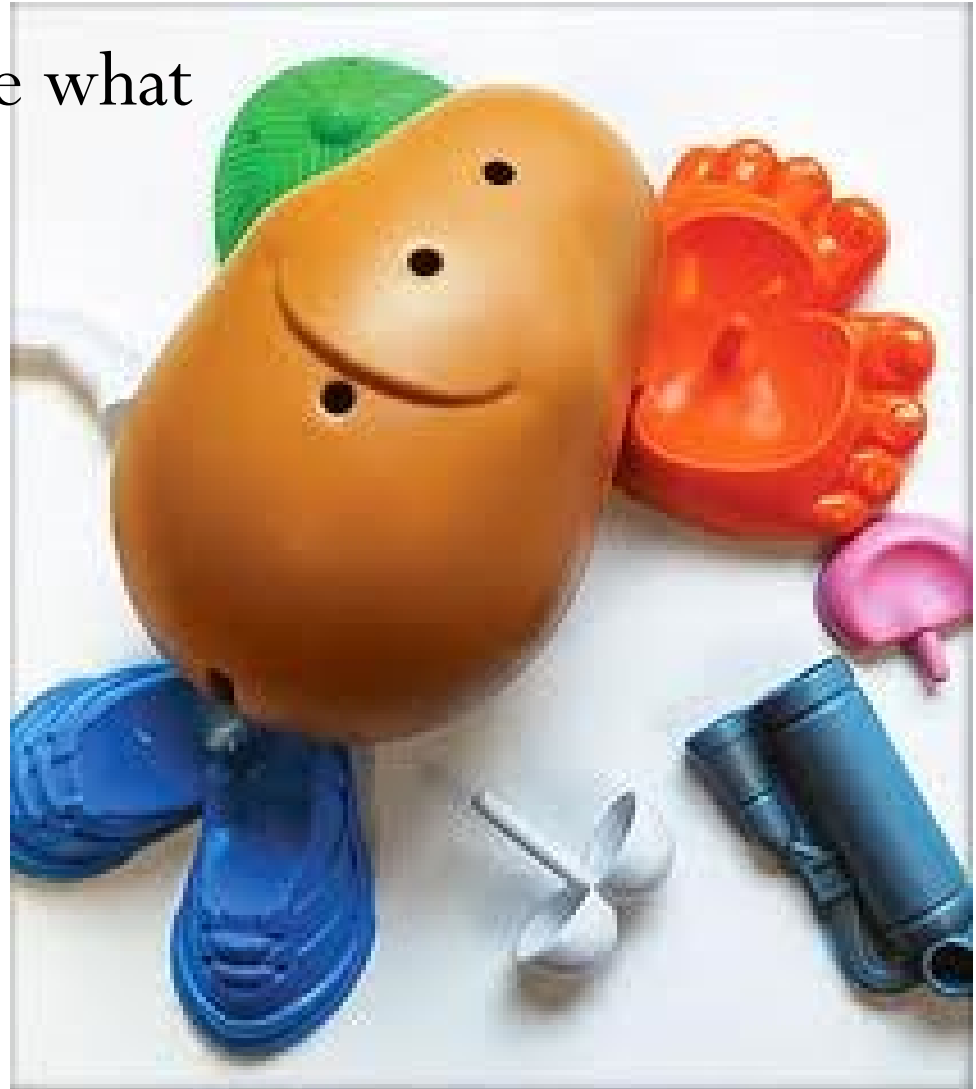


Rhetorical Analysis

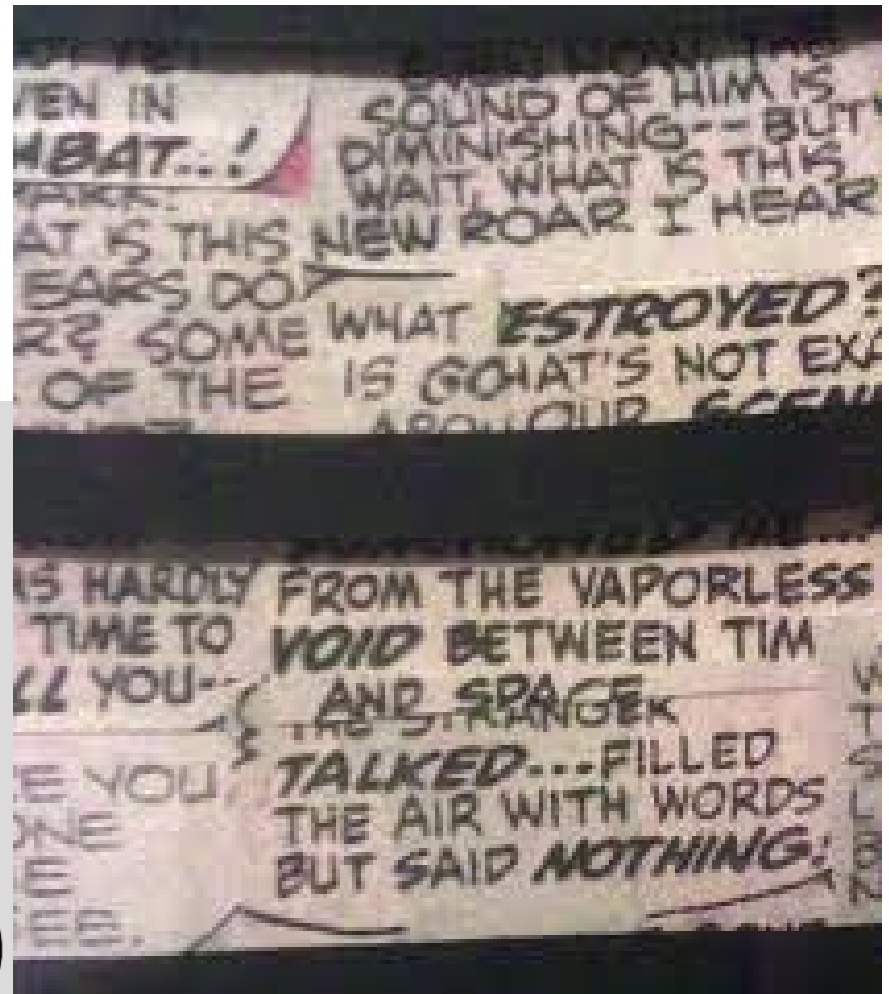
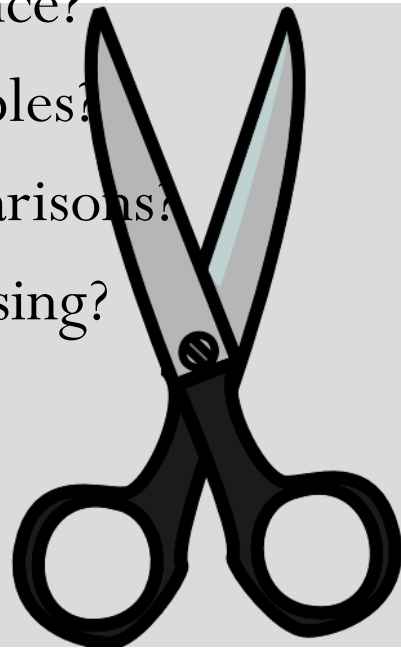
What is analysis in general?

- Taking stuff apart to see what parts it's made of
- How does it work?
- What's good about it?
- What's bad about it?
- What's missing?



Rhetorical analysis: breaking apart text to see what it's made of

- Its logic
- Its emotional content
- Its believability
- Which evidence?
- Which examples?
- Which comparisons?
- Anything missing?



Analysis: writing about the *writer*

- His choices of evidence
- His choices of words
- His logic
- His worldview
- His assumptions
- His sense of fairness
- His authority
- What he seems to know
- What he doesn't seem to know



Annotating the text

Remington
Reseskrivmaskin

Bellman ägde der
sällsynta gåvan
att så skarpt te
några enskilda ö
eller händelser,
vi tycker oss kä
personerna eller

background info

good point!—logical! →

dumb comparison...

*negative connotation to this
word →*

Annotating the author

Remington Reseskrymaskin

Bellman ägde der
sällsynta gåvan
att så skarpt te
några enskilda ö
eller händelser,
vi tycker oss kä
personerna eller

← *stereotyping?*

← *inconsistent with his previous
point*

*doesn't consider current
conditions*

Writing the paper



A careful analysis of Shrek: Forever After shows that...no...

Shrek: Forever After exemplifies a hero myth...no...

Hero myths are everywhere. In Shrek: Forever After we see that...no...

List & get organized

Talk about logic & credibility

“The author is *consistent* in criticizing both political parties for similar offenses.”

“He is *logical* in identifying the effects of the law.”

“She is *thorough* and discusses several likely causes of the problem.”

Talk about point of view— worldview

“The author seems to see the poor as automatically noble & the rich as automatically evil; this is black & white thinking.”

“She seems to think of the world as a friendly global family who share the same goals, but this is unrealistic.”

“She shows a pessimistic view of human nature as if it is irredeemable.”

Talk about what’s missing

“The author only uses examples from California & omits neighboring states.”

“He isn’t considering the likely *unintended* results of the law.”

Talk about the kinds of evidence

“The author’s comparison of traffic accidents with terrorism is stupid because...”

Signal, summarize, paraphrase

Pundit Trisdan Leyson, in "What 's Wrong with Semicolons," uses evidence from personal observation, the 2010 census, and the Declaration of Independence to support his claim that the problem with semicolons is not the fact that they are abused. Rather, he says the semicolon problem reflects a wider problem in the community. He argues that the failure of the K-12 educational system contributes to the semicolon problem, but that at its root the problem is the failure of the family.

- Use an introductory signal phrase.
- Summarize the arguments.
- Paraphrase the main idea.

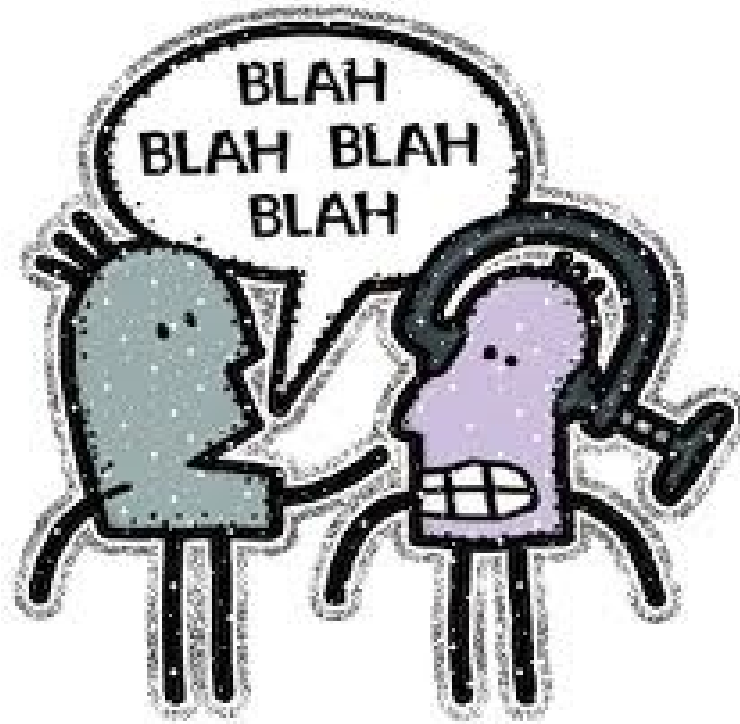
Make your own claim (thesis)

Leyson is clearly either confused or misinformed; the semicolon is not a problem at all. Not only does Leyson marginalize the semicolon, which is a useful and elegant punctuation tool, but he even scapegoats the family in his misguided blame-game.

...OR...

Leyson is a visionary with unusual insight who understands that most of our problems, including our semicolon problem, spring from dysfunctional families. His argument is passionate, logical, and convincing.

Explain.



- Choose your strongest points
- Create topic sentences (*“In the first place, Leyson’s use of 2010 census material is illogical.”*)
- Explain & illustrate each point (use personal examples, other examples, logic, comparisons, consequences, etc.)
- See the tip sheet *Developing Supporting Arguments* for more ideas

Possible paragraphs...

Logos/Logic

- Does the author “connect the dots” convincingly?
- Does the author seem inconsistent or does he contradict himself?
- What are the possible or likely consequences of his ideas?
- What might be the unintended consequences?
- Does she bring up any irrelevant or off-topic points?

Pathos/Emotion

- Does the author use language likely to incite strong feelings?
- Is there more neutral language she could have used?
- Can you tell by her word choice how she feels about it?
- Does he appeal to your emotions either with words or imagery?

Ethos/Authority

- Does the author’s background make her seem qualified on this subject?
- Does the author’s word choice & writing make him seem qualified?
- Does the author’s choice of evidence seem credible?

...or these...

Assumptions

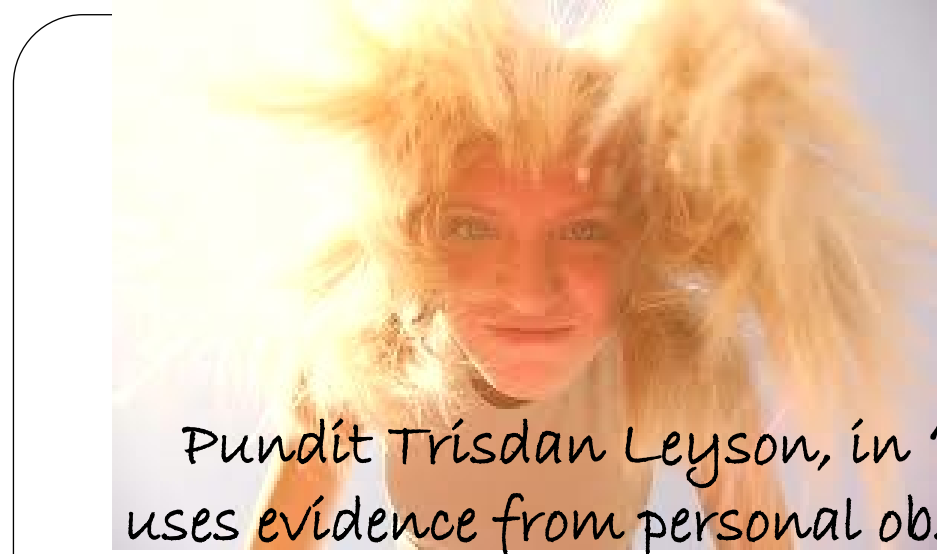
- What is the author taking for granted?
- Do her assumptions seem valid?
- Are there other possible, but different, assumptions?
- Does she seem to believe in a particular worldview? How would you describe it?
- Does she seem to have any prejudices? What are they?

Sense of proportion

- Does he exaggerate the problem?
- Does he minimize the problem?
- Are his comparisons/metaphors appropriate?

Completeness of evidence

- What do I know that she seems not to know?
- What evidence has she left out?
- What has she failed to consider?



(First the intro and thesis...)

Pundit Trisdan Leyson, in "What 's Wrong with Semicolons," uses evidence from personal observation, the 2010 census, and historical documents to support his claim that the problem with semicolons is not the fact that they are abused. Rather, he says the semicolon problem reflects a wider problem in the community. He argues that the failure of the K-12 educational system contributes to the semicolon problem, but that at its root the problem is one of the failure of the family. *Leyson is a visionary with unusual insight who understands that most of our problems, including our semicolon problem, spring from dysfunctional families. His argument is credible, logical, and generally convincing.*

(now topic
sentences for body
paragraphs...)



Leyson's personal experiences with both semicolons and the family contribute to his *credibility*....

Leyson does not ignore evidence that would seem to contradict his own position. He addresses those arguments head on...

Leyson's *logic* is easy to follow. He presents a clear case ...

All in all, Leyson does a good job in revealing the root of the semicolon problem....



Comments?
Questions?

Created by Rosemary McKeever for the Yuba College Writing & Language Development Center,
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That's all Folks!



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