

How can you develop a strong analysis of a selection?

Analysis means to break down into parts. The parts might be individuals in a story or specific ideas in an argument or other components. One way to analyze a text is to use the following two strategies. You will see them in action here one by one.

Strategy 1: Identify what the text says explicitly and cite textual evidence to support your view.

Strategy 2: Identify what the text says implicitly and cite textual evidence to support your view.

Strategy 1: Identify what the text says explicitly and cite textual evidence to support your view.

Explicit information includes statements that the writer states clearly and that most readers would agree on. Some examples are

- facts about events
- statements by individuals
- comments by a narrator or the writer

Directions: Federal judges are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. However, most states use elections to either select judges or to keep them in their positions.

The following excerpt is from a letter in the *Washington Post* criticizing judicial elections. Break down the excerpt into individual sentences and analyze what each sentence says explicitly.

State supreme court candidates raised more than \$206 million in the past decade, shattering records in 20 states. Much of this money came from lawyers and interest groups who appear before these candidates in court. Three in four Americans, most business leaders and nearly half of judges themselves believe that campaign cash is affecting courtroom decisions.

Brent Brandenburg and Seth Andersen

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning
State supreme court candidates raised more than \$206 million in the past decade, shattering records in 20 states.	

Analyzing Selections

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Statement	Explicit Meaning
State supreme court candidates raised more than \$206 million in the past decade, shattering records in 20 states.	Candidates for state supreme courts raised \$206 million dollars over the past ten years. They set records for fundraising in 20 states.

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Statement	Explicit Meaning
Much of this money came from lawyers and interest groups who appear before these candidates in court.	

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning
Much of this money came from lawyers and interest groups who appear before these candidates in court.	Many contributions to judicial candidates came from lawyers and interest groups.

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning
Three in four Americans, most business leaders and nearly half of judges themselves believe that campaign cash is affecting courtroom decisions.	

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning
Three in four Americans, most business leaders and nearly half of judges themselves believe that campaign cash is affecting courtroom decisions.	Most Americans believe that contributions to judicial candidates affect the decisions judges make.

Strategy 2: Identify what the text says implicitly and cite textual evidence to support your view.

Implicit information includes everything that a reader infers from a text. This often includes

- the motivation for an individual's actions
- the significance of a plot development
- the theme of a piece of writing

Since implicit information is not stated clearly, various readers are more likely to disagree about it than they are about explicit information.

Analyzing Selections

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Directions: Use the same excerpt from a letter in the *Washington Post* criticizing judicial elections. Break down the excerpt into individual sentences and analyze what each sentence says implicitly.

State supreme court candidates raised more than \$206 million in the past decade, shattering records in 20 states. Much of this money came from lawyers and interest groups who appear before these candidates in court. Three in four Americans, most business leaders and nearly half of judges themselves believe that campaign cash is affecting courtroom decisions.

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Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Implicit Meaning
State supreme court candidates raised more than \$206 million in the past decade, shattering records in 20 states.	

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Implicit Meaning
State supreme court candidates raised more than \$206 million in the past decade, shattering records in 20 states.	“Shattering” emphasizes how much money was raised by implying that the records were broken by large amounts.

Analyzing Selections

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Statement	Implicit Meaning
Much of this money came from lawyers and interest groups who appear before these candidates in court.	

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Implicit Meaning
Much of this money came from lawyers and interest groups who appear before these candidates in court.	“Interest groups” emphasizes that the money comes from organizations that have narrow concerns that they advocate for.

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Implicit Meaning
Three in four Americans, most business leaders and nearly half of judges themselves believe that campaign cash is affecting courtroom decisions.	

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Implicit Meaning
Three in four Americans, most business leaders and nearly half of judges themselves believe that campaign cash is affecting courtroom decisions.	The statistics about how people “believe” that the contributions are “affecting courtroom decisions” implies that people are losing trust in the courts.

Analyzing Selections

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Directions: Analyze what this text says explicitly and implicitly. Provide textual evidence to support your analysis.

It is important to remember that efforts to maximize judicial “independence” from the electorate can also maximize independence from the law and the Constitution. Without a mechanism for effectively holding judges accountable, judges are free to “go rogue” and make decisions based solely on their political views. Is that better than a campaign season every now and then?

Chris Bonneau, “Why We Should Keep Judicial Elections,” *Washington Post*

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
It is important to remember that efforts to maximize judicial “independence” from the electorate can also maximize independence from the law and the Constitution.		

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
It is important to remember that efforts to maximize judicial “independence” from the electorate can also maximize independence from the law and the Constitution.	If judges are independent from pressure, they are also independent of the law and the Constitution.	“Independence from the law and the Constitution” implies that judges can rule however they want.

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
Without a mechanism for effectively holding judges accountable, judges are free to “go rogue” and make decisions based solely on their political views.		

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
Without a mechanism for effectively holding judges accountable, judges are free to “go rogue” and make decisions based solely on their political views.	Judges need to be held accountable so that they do not simply follow their personal views.	“Go rogue” implies that judges can be out of control.

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
Is that better than a campaign season every now and then?		

Analyzing Selections

Cluster 2 page 51

Statement	Explicit Meaning	Implicit Meaning
Is that better than a campaign season every now and then?	Campaigns are not as bad as allowing judges to be completely independent.	“Every now and then” implies that campaigns are rare enough that they are not a problem.