

Writing Activity: Analyzing the Decision-Making Process

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Directions: A thought-provoking quotation is often called a *maxim*. Read the two maxims about decision making on the next screens. Notice how one reader has analyzed them by reflecting on how she makes decisions.

After studying the analyses, write your own responses to each maxim.

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Maxim #1

We can try to avoid making choices by doing nothing, but even that is a decision. —Gary Collins

Analysis

When I put off making a decision, it's often because I want to avoid hurting someone.

(Your response) _____

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Maxim #2

One's mind has a way of making itself up in the background, and it suddenly becomes clear what one means to do. —A. C. Benson

Analysis

I like to sleep on it when I have an important decision to make.

(Your response) _____

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A strong analysis

- carefully examines the topic
- supports each point with evidence
- ends with a summary of ideas presented