**Analyze and Interpret**

**Writing Purposes**

*To analyze* means “to break into parts and examine the components.”

*To interpret* means "to offer possible meanings."

In literature and the other humanities, to interpret or critically analyze means to break a subject (such as a segment of a work of art or, in other fields, a culture, person, or event) into its constituent parts, examine these components, and offer a meaning--or alternative meanings--about each.

Usually such a paper starts with an interpretive question, such as "What is the relationship of Romeo to his father," "Why did the public option in the health care debate fail," or "How does the element of chance control the fortunes of two different male characters in *The Color Purple?"*

Learning topic:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Focus your writing on something specific. Possible subtopics for Analyze and Interpret:

Analyze and Interpretfocused topic:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_