



Analyzing a Prompt: Five Critical Questions

The following questions should be used to analyze a writing prompt. Use the spaces below to record your thoughts and responses.

1.) Is this a take home or in-class writing assignment?

What do I know about this type of writing? Think about the writing situation. How much time do I have? How should I prepare? What are the expectations?

2.) What is the prompt asking me to do?

3.) How can I use the prompt to help organize my paper?

What should I do first, second, and third?

4.) Who is my intended audience?

If the audience is not explicitly stated and it cannot be inferred, ask for more direction. If this is a timed writing task, you may need to write to a general academic audience.

5.) What sources (if any) am I being asked to use?
