

# Analytical Writing

## Exercise 1:

**Analyzing a Text** Read the following passage and write an analysis of the author's argument using the Toulmin Model. Identify the claim, evidence, warrant, backing, qualifier, and rebuttal.

"Social media is harmful to society. Studies have shown that excessive use of social media can lead to depression and anxiety, as well as a lack of productivity. Furthermore, social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged for as long as possible, leading to addiction-like behavior. Therefore, we must limit our use of social media in order to protect our mental health and well-being."



## Exercise 2:

**Argument Mapping** Read the following argument and create an argument map that visually represents the structure of the argument.

"Legalizing marijuana for medical purposes is a compassionate and necessary step for our society. Patients with debilitating medical conditions, such as cancer and multiple sclerosis, often rely on marijuana to alleviate their symptoms. Additionally, marijuana has been shown to be less addictive and less harmful than many prescription drugs that are currently legal. Therefore, we should legalize marijuana for medical purposes in order to provide relief to suffering patients."

### Exercise 3:

**Critical Reading and Writing** Read the following article and write a critical response to the author's argument. In your response, identify any logical fallacies, unsupported assumptions, or weaknesses in the author's argument.

"Climate change is a hoax perpetuated by liberal elites in order to further their political agenda. There is no scientific evidence that proves that human activity is causing the Earth's climate to change. Furthermore, many scientists who support the theory of climate change are receiving funding from political organizations with a vested interest in pushing this narrative. Therefore, we should not make policy decisions based on this false information."



### Exercise 4:

**Analyzing Grammar in Context** Read the following sentences and identify any errors in grammar, punctuation, or sentence structure.

- A. "Their are many reasons why people choose to study abroad."
- B. "The student, who stayed up late every night, she still managed to get good grades."
- C. "I would like to thank my parents, Oprah Winfrey and God."
- D. "Between you and I, I don't think the boss knows what he's doing."

## **Exercise 5:**

**Writing a Synthesis Essay** Read the following two articles and write a synthesis essay that compares and contrasts the arguments presented in each article. In your essay, be sure to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each argument and provide your own opinion on the topic.

**Article 1:** "Why College Should Be Free for All Students"

**Article 2:** "The Case Against Free College"