

Reading Centre

making a difference

Writing to analyse
in Years 7 to 10



Thinking to analyse

Often school-based tests and assignments require writing that ***analyses***.



Image: Pixabay

This slideshow will examine how to write an ***analysis*** in Science.

To ***analyse*** in Science means to:

- look closely at the parts of a whole idea, object, person, process, system or thing
- re-organise the parts according to what is similar, different, part of a pattern or relationship to represent new understanding.

An example task

Consider the following Science task:

Analyse the movement patterns of Great White sharks off the Australian mainland.

The written response should:

- describe general patterns of shark movement
- describe links between movement data and other data.



Image: Pixabay

What features are important?

A written explanation will likely include:

- a **topic sentence** to introduce what the explanation is about
- **pronouns** to connect ideas without repeating words, for example, 'this', 'these', 'it' and 'they'
- **words to compare** and **contrast**, for example, 'whilst'
- **synonyms** to avoid repeating words
- **words to describe amount**, for example, 'majority', 'larger'
- **phrases** to add important information
- **expanded noun groups** to include important information
- **interrupting clauses** to include important information.

Example analysis

A study of 89 Great White sharks, conducted between December 2008 and May 2016, has revealed new data about movement patterns. Two distinct populations of white sharks exist in Australian waters. The Eastern and South Western populations, separated by Bass Strait, typically don't overlap in their zones of movement. Whilst the majority of sharks were found in waters more than 50m deep and 10kms off the coast of mainland Australia, larger sharks were found to travel longer distances. There was a correlation between shark numbers, location and season, however, this did not extend to an overall pattern in shark movement.

Important features

Topic sentence

A study of 89 Great White sharks, conducted between December 2008 and May 2016, has revealed new data about movement patterns. **Two distinct populations of white sharks** exist **in Australian waters**. The Eastern and South Western populations, **separated by Bass Strait**, typically don't overlap **in their zones of movement**. **Whilst** the majority of sharks were found **in waters more than 50m deep and 10kms off the coast of mainland Australia**, larger sharks were found to travel longer distances. There was **a correlation between shark numbers, location and season**, **however** this did not extend to **an overall pattern in shark movement**.

Words to describe amount

Phrases

Conjunctions to compare

Interrupting clauses

Expanded noun groups