**Analyzing Evidence**

**What is analysis?**
Analysis means collecting, interpreting, and generalizing data. When you write papers, analysis means interpreting your evidence to correspond to your argument.

**Asking Questions**
In order to effectively analyze, you should locate evidence and then ask yourself questions about the evidence.

Read this quote:
Art historian Paul Greenhalgh explains, “Many Art Nouveau pattern-forms are a result of nature being coaxed into the realm of artifice.”

Now, read the Example Questions; they help the writer target components of the idea:

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| **Explanation**  | What are “pattern-forms”?  
How is the “realm of artifice”?  
How are pattern-forms related to nature? | “Pattern-forms” are patterns based on shapes in nature. The “realm of artifice” is the man-made world. |
| **Interpretation** | What does it mean to “coax” nature into artifice?  
What does nature mean in Art Nouveau? | Natural shapes, colors, or textures became part of building materials or decorations. |
| **Evaluation**    | Why did nature need to be coaxed? Into what?  
How?  
Why did artists consider pattern-forms effective? | The man-made world was hard metal, plastic, and cement—the opposite to nature. |
| **Implication**   | Why were natural pattern-forms important?  
What was the impact of coaxing nature into art? | They thought using patterns from nature created calm atmospheres. |

Adapted from Professor Tracy McCabe’s College Writing handout
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After considering these questions and answers, the writer can frame the evidence with relevant context for his or her analysis. Read the example below:

**Explanation:** Art Nouveau artists sought to reinvent nature in a way that was relevant to the modern and urbanizing city landscape.

**Evidence:** Art historian Paul Greenhalgh explains, "Many Art Nouveau patterns are a result of nature being coaxed into the realm of artifice."

**Interpretation:** Thus, Art Nouveau can be viewed as a response to urbanism, as an attempt to reshape nature in an industrial form.

How does the explanation prepare readers for the quote? For the writer’s analysis? How did answering the questions help the writer interpret the evidence?