Developing an Analytical Voice

**Level One:** Identify how the situation is created; observe what you see

- **evidence**
  - **Diction:** what types of words are used or repeated?
  - **Imagery:** how is the image created? What are its parts?
  - **Detail:** what's the setting? Who are the characters?
  - **What are the facts of the text that don't require quoting its language?**

**Level Two:** what abstract associations [qualities, conditions, values] emerge from the language of the text?

- Fear?
- Excitement?
- Violence?
- Chaos?
- Order?
- Arrogance?
- Submission?
- Confidence?
- Confinement?
- Freedom?
- Benevolent?

**Level Three:** Identify the relationships to the rest of the text—

- **repetition** [similarity, analogy, recurrence, echo, parallelism]
- **contrast** [incongruity, antithesis, opposition, tension]
- **shift** [turn, transformation, alteration]
- **juxtaposition** [contiguity, adjacency, montage]

*The association May be part of a larger Interpretive Perspective / CLAIM about
  - Tone
  - Attitude
  - Voice
  - Atmosphere
  - Character
  - Thematic idea
  - Ethical appeal
  - Logical appeal
  - Emotional appeal
  - Aristotle's Topics: definition, classification, comparison, relationship

*writing symbols that correlate to each level

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rather than joining it.

The bleak details of Wilson’s auto shop, both “unprosperous and bare,” reflect the hapless condition of its proprietor, a financial prosperity absent and barren. Even the faint hope of success—the dust-covered wreck of a Ford—remains elusive, for it almost covers from sight, merely “crouched in a dim corner,” the repetition of “dust” and “dim” further emphasizing the failed, ruined, and spoiled ambitions of Wilson. In fact, these spoiled aspirations shroud Wilson, who wipes “his hands on a piece of waste,” a gesture that both underscores the futility of his efforts and functions, through the selection of the word “waste,” metaphorically to limn a life of despair. Lastly, George’s description as a man “spiritless,” “anemic,” “faintly” and “damp” connote the mortality and frailty of his hopes, hopes barely “visible” to Nick when he enters the garage.

Scrooge’s lack of compassion contrasts with those of his guests, men seeking to assist the poor with “some meat and drink,” and means of warmth.” Scrooge, however, asserts that the poor deserve their plight; if this means living in prisons, “those who are badly off must go there,” a statement abdicating any level of social responsibility. Moreover, his final statement, seeking to be left alone with his own business reinforces an abject selfishness, his repetition of “own,” “mine,” and “me” reflecting his interest in withdrawing from society rather than joining it.