

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Law and Order

17. Narrative analysis II – analysis

Edexcel students: ‘law and order’ is a stated topic on your specification, and you have an explicit narrative analysis question in the exam.

AQA students: ‘law and order’ is not a topic on your specification, although it was a problem the Homesteaders faced. However, you will meet a narrative analysis question in Paper 1, so it will do no harm to study this exercise.

In the Writing Development exercise #14 on Cattle-ranching, we looked at how to write a narrative, viz.:

- a) Plan out the events/developments you intend to describe, in the logical order, using subordinating conjunctions of time/sequence such as: ‘First’, ‘Next’, ‘After’, ‘Before’, ‘Later’, ‘Initially’, ‘At last’, ‘Also’, ‘In addition’, ‘Meanwhile’, ‘Simultaneously’, ‘Furthermore’.
- b) Provide some relevant ‘proving’ information about the event/development.

Better essays, however, will ANALYSE the story as they tell it, by:

- a) explaining the importance of the event/development – why it was a key event in the narrative.
- b) explaining how some events were linked – how the story ‘hangs together’.

Let’s say you have to write the essay: “Write a narrative account analysing the attempts to establish law and order in the years c1876–c1895.”

Consider the following table, which lists aspects of the attempts:

1. Using the webpage to fill the gaps, so as to end up with a completed essay plan.

Conjunction	Event/development	Explain the importance/significance	Proving information	Explain links to...
The first and most important...	1. Government Involvement	Judicial circuits brought courts to frontier areas, and US Marshals tracked outlaws.	Chris Madsen & Rufus Buck (1895-6)	2, 3, 6
Another...	2. Railroads	.....	Charlie Siringo pursued Butch Cassidy	.....
.....	3. Outlaw Pursuit	Federal & local lawmen cooperated to pursue outlaws.	.....	.....
.....	4. World-famous Lawmen	.....	.....	3, 7
.....	5. State involvement	.....	Wyoming (Tom Horn)	.....
.....	6. US Army	Kept peace between rival civilian groups.	.....	.....
Finally, ...	7. Public hangings & shoot-outs	.....	OK Corral	.....