



Thinking Backward: Three Steps

1. *Read and discuss in general terms* the models of writing, considering these questions:

How do you *generally react* to this piece of writing?

What do you think makes it *effective*? Less than effective?

What is, for you, the model's *overall impression*?

How do you *compare* this writing to other pieces you have read?

2. *Assess in more specific terms* and within certain parameters (i.e., using or even creating an evaluative rubric) the qualities of these models, considering these questions:

What are the *dominant characteristics* of this model of writing?

How would you describe its *language*?

Structure?

Sentence rhythm?

Transitional words or phrases?

Word use?

Organization?

What, if any, is the personal *appeal*?

What is its persuasiveness?

3. *Speculate on the impetus for this model* of writing and what you think it is trying to accomplish (i.e., what might be the prompt that would have generated this model?), considering the following questions:

What do you think the writer is *trying to accomplish* in this piece?

What do you think is the writer's *point of view*?

Who do you think might be the *ideal audience* to read and appreciate this piece of writing?

Who might be a *less than ideal audience*?
