

Thématique :

The text deals with / is about / tells the story of / is an account of... / presents us with... / expresses...
The text involves three characters.
The author addresses the subject of... / handles / explores the theme of... / tackles (= *affronte*, *s'attaque à*) the difficult issue of...

Problématique :

The text hinges round / is based on...
It is worth asking what is implied by... / how the themes of... and... are related.
We need to question (the representation of... / the logic of...)
raise (*soulever*) the question of...
need elucidating
The question of... arises

Énumération :

First(ly) / To begin with...
Second(ly) / Then...
Last(ly) / Finally...
For example: In the first part of this essay/analysis/commentary, I examine/analyse the issue of... / I try to show that...

Utiliser

adopt a... style / point of view...
use, have recourse to, make (constant / systematic / significant...) use of...
make full use of / draw upon (a broad array of devices / resources...)

Illustrer :

illustrate, represent, exemplify, epitomize
an illustration, an emblem, a type, a stereotype
typical (of), representative (of)

Refléter :

mirror, reflect
The prevalence of passive verb forms mirrors the passivity of...

Signifier :

mean, indicate, prove, show, denote, display, be evidence of/that, demonstrate, imply, point to, testify to, reveal, betray...
can be seen as
yield / assume further significance / a new meaning
be pregnant with meaning
act as, constitute, function as...

Interpréter :

interpret, construe, understand, take (as meaning that... / as evidence that... / to mean that...)
This image / metaphor / wording... lends... to the line.
It endows the text with...
It sheds a new light on... / It shows... in a new light.

Citer :

An example / instance / occurrence of... is to be found line...
In the narrator's words, / As the narrator puts it, ...
To quote but one example, ...
There may be no better example (of...) than...

Mettre en valeur :

emphasize, lay emphasis on, stress, lay the stress on, highlight, foreground

Mettre en relation :

The narrator associates... with... / establishes a link between...
remind sb of... (This line reminds the reader of...)
be reminiscent (of), echo, recall
The narrator returns to (the theme of...)
We can draw a parallel between... and... / establish a link between...
Besides / Furthermore / In addition / Similarly / What is more...
antithetical, opposed, contradictory, discordant...
a gap, an opposition, a contrast, a discrepancy, discord...
(stand) in (sharp) contrast to, run counter to,
contradict, rankle with, be at variance with / at odds with...
be (inter)related, be connected with, be combined with..., tie in with
(in)consistent, (in)consistency

Nuancer :

We should qualify this assertion / mitigate this assertion / this representation...
The narrator compensates for / balances / softens / tones down...
Although / though
On the other hand / however / nevertheless / nonetheless / yet

Conclure :

As a conclusion / To conclude / All in all...
At the end of the day / When all is said and done (*au bout du compte*)
The different points of view / narrative threads / themes are brought together / dovetail into a (coherent / discordant...) whole...
The tensions underlying the text / present in the text are resolved / reconciled / left unresolved...