

Baronett's *Logic* (4th ed.)
Section Tips

Chapter 15 (online text only): Four Tips

- When analyzing a long essay, it's often helpful to keep a set of notes next to you that summarize the major points of each paragraph. When you look at the entirety of your notes, you should be able to discern a thread of reasoning that runs through the entire piece.
- It's often easy to feel overwhelmed by a long essay. But consider reading through it once without stopping, and then ask yourself what you remember as being the most important ideas. It's kind of like telling a friend about a movie you just saw. You likely focus on a theme ("It's a film about good people triumphing over adversity," or "It's a film about the moral ambiguities of war") or a summary of what happened ("Police detectives investigate a crime, but after many twists and turns it is revealed that the people who committed the crime are actually on the police force themselves").
- When analyzing a long essay, be sure to focus on the author's reasoning. Doing so will help you follow a coherent line of thought, rather than, say, random observations that don't contribute to the essay as a whole.
- When analyzing a long essay that involves abstract reasoning, try to come up with concrete examples to help you better understand what the author means.