useful expressions for analyzing a text

I. subject / theme / main aspect / main thought

to develop an idea / a thought / an opinion / a standpoint
to follow a line of thought
a text has a succession ...

series...	eine Serie von...
sequence of thoughts	eine Folge von...

thoughts are related to each other

precede each other	vorausgehen
supersede each other	sich ablösen
continue each other	einander fortsetzen

to treat...
to deal with...

to be concerned with a subject	ein Thema behandeln
to tackle a problem in detail	ein Problem detailliert/
at some length	mit ziemlicher Ausführlichkeit
	behandeln
to elaborate a subject	ein Thema ausführen
to enlarge on...	sich ausbreiten über
to dwell on...	näher eingehen auf
to pass from one subject to another	von einem Thema zu einem
	anderen übergehen
to return to a subject	zu einem Thema zurückkehren
to vary a theme	ein Thema variieren
a theme runs through a text	ein Thema zieht sich durch...

s.th. is a(n) interesting /fascinating /
            dull / boring subject / theme
the thought of a text can be developed in
        the stages of 1. thesis
                        2. antithesis / contrast
                        3. synthesis / conclusion

ad 1) the author puts forward	darlegen
sets forth	"
presents	"
develops	entwickeln
elaborates	ausarbeiten, ausführen
defends	verteidigen
attacks (the thesis that)	angreifen (die These...)
he supports a thesis / an idea by strong arguments	... mit starken / schwachen
weak	Argumenten stützen
he discusses the pros and cons of a subject	er diskutiert die Argumente
	dafür and dagegen

        an argument is the antithesis of / to another
        to use / put forward an argument against / for sth
        to base / ground one's arguments on facts
        to use strong / weak arguments
        to seek / search for an example
        to find / give / refer to (s. beziehen auf) an example

to give a concrete / an appropriate (passend) example

to say s.th. by way of example	etw. durch ein Beispiel darstellen
for example = for instance	
to exemplify s.th. by quoting from...	etw. durch ein Zitat beispielhaft erläutern

ad 2)

sth is / forms the antithesis to the preceding argument
to make an objection to an argument

to point out a contradiction	einen Widerspruch aufzeigen
sth is / forms a contrast to	... bildet einen Gegensatz zu
to find out / point out the contrast between	d. Kontrast aufzeigen zwischen
to find a slight / strong contrast...	einen leichten / starken Kontrast finden
two passages form a contrast	zwei Abschnitte bilden e. K.
contrast with each other	
to draw a comparison between ... and...	einen Vergleich ziehen zw.
in comparison with...	im Vergleich zu...
the ... paragraph is comparable to the ...paragraph	der...Abschnitt ist vergleichbar mit dem...Abschnitt
to make a distinction between	eine Unterscheidung machen

to make a clear d. between
to distinguish between ... and
to define sth
to give / find /form a definition of
to give a clear / exact / precise definition of

ad 3)

to give / present / come to the synthesis of	zur Synthese gelangen
to come to / arrive at / reach a conclusion	zu einem Schluss gelangen
to come to the conclusion that	zu d. Schluss gelangen, dass
to conclude / end / finish / terminate a text with	einen Text beschließen mit
to arrive at a solution	zu einer Lösung gelangen
the solution to / for a problem	
to give the solution of a problem	

II. composition / structure

a text has	ein Text hat
possesses	besitzt
contains	enthält
shows ...	weist auf

        a simple structure
        a complex structure
the elements of the structure of a text are
    parts, passages, sections etc.

certain passages of a text serve as a frame	dienen als Rahmen to

study compositional elements of a text
      parallels
      contrasts
      antitheses
compositional elements of a text are:
      the whole
      parts
      divisions
      sections
      subdivisions
      groups of lines
      units of meaning
      paragraphs

a text can be divided / falls into (a number of) parts etc.
words / sentences follow each other in particular arrangement
they have a regular / an irregular arrangement

words are set / arranged // appear in a certain order
to study the order of words /of parts of the sentence / of sentences

III. language

a word is placed at the beginning / end of a sentence
words are grouped in a certain order
words follow each other
a word opens / ends / closes a sentence

use / apply a certain termonolgy	eine bestimmte Terminologie gebrauchen

an author might use
      employ
      have   a certain vocabulary
      possess

... a poor vocabulary	begrenztes Vokabular
... limited	
... large	weitreichendes
... rich	reichhaltig
... Latinized	latinisiert

... religiuos	religiös
... scientific	wissenschaftlich
... technical	technisch

an author has a descriptive
        colloquial   language
        slangy
a sentence has a climax
it holds the reader in suspense
a sentence has a certain word order
it has the pattern of a statement
        an assertion (Behauptung)
        a question
        an exclamation (Ausruf)

there are simple
        compound / complex sentences

IV. style

to use / employ a ... style

a style can be plain	schlicht
simple	
unaffected	ungekünstelt
matter-of-fact	sachlich
sober	nüchtern
natural	
concise	knapp / bündig
terse	"
brief / compressed / condensed	gedrängt
compact	kurzgefasst
succinct	kurz u. prägnant
clear / lucid	klar, deutlich
transparent	durchsichtig
intelligible	verständlich
it is to the point	
precise	
definite	
exact	genau
descriptive	beschreibend
concrete	konkret
vivid	lebendig
explicit	deutlich, klar
fluent	flüssig
poetic	dichterisch
elevated	gehoben