

Rhetorical Analysis Assignment Description

DUE: Peer Review in class Friday October 9

Hard copy at beginning of class Monday October 12

Electronic copy uploaded to Canvas must be submitted in docx, doc, pdf format, NOT pages.

Electronic copy accepted from Saturday October 10 – Wednesday October 14

VALUE: 40 points:

6 points for Peer Review (3 points for peer reviewing and 3 points for being peer reviewed)

4 points for Canvas upload

30 points for hardcopy

RUBRIC: Break down of Hardcopy points

- 1000 word minimum (1 point)
- Formatting: MLA
 - Correct Heading (1 point)
 - 12 point Times New Roman Font (1 point)
 - Double spaced (no extra spaces) (1 point)
 - 1 inch margin (1 point)
 - Page numbers, top right corner (1 point)
- Content: A good paper will highlight a number of rhetorical devices and details and explain their rhetorical effect. (14 points)
- Organization and Style: Have you connected the whole to the parts in a way that does justice to both? Is there a thesis statement with supporting paragraphs? Does the paper flow smoothly from beginning to end? Do you have strong transitions from paragraph to paragraph? (5 points)
- Mechanics: Do you have quality sentence structure, word choice, grammar, and punctuation? (5 points)

Desired Learning Outcomes:

- Become a better, less easily manipulated reader by understanding how writers use rhetoric
- Learn to use rhetoric more successfully yourself by analyzing another writer's successes and failures
- Practice analytical skills
- Practice connecting whole to parts to write a coherent paper

You will write a thesis-driven rhetorical analysis essay in which you examine the rhetorical effectiveness of an argument (see suggested list below). The main purpose of the assignment is *not* to inform your peers of your views on the argument, but rather, to explain how the writer uses rhetorical devices (ethos, pathos, logos) effectively or ineffectively and how he/she does that. Direct your analysis to an audience of your classmates.

You will **briefly summarize an essay and present your thesis** highlighting two or more rhetorical features (for instance, pathos or ethos) of the argument that you find central to the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of this argument. To develop and support your own points, you should include textual evidence--in the form of examples or short quotations--from the essay you are analyzing.

Think of your rhetorical analysis as a way to 1.) Shine a spotlight on important aspects of the essay and 2.) Discuss the effectiveness of the argument through an examination of its rhetorical features.