

### Essay #3: Rhetorical Analysis

In this essay, you will analyze a theme or issue from *a text of your choosing*. Your essay should make a claim about this theme or issue and support it with evidence from the text and the outside world. **You must cite your text** to tie this theme/issue to larger issues outside of the text. **The essay must be 4-5 pages in length. Please follow all standard MLA formatting.**

**Due Dates—Rough Draft: Oct 26<sup>th</sup>; First Draft: Oct 28<sup>th</sup>; Final Draft: Oct 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Definition of Analysis:** Analysis refers to examining the smaller parts or elements of a whole. For example, a text might be analyzed according to its purpose, audience, genre, stance, media and design, and more. Analysis also considers patterns of elements.

**Definition of Rhetorical Moves:** Refers to the strategies used to organize the text in order to persuade an audience. For example, defining and identifying contexts allows you to consider the reasons the text was composed at a particular moment and time. As you begin drafting your analysis, remember, “Texts don’t exist in isolation; they are influenced by and contribute to ongoing conversations, controversies, or debates” (NFG, 50).

In class, we will be participating in brainstorming and idea-generating activities, mini-rhetorical analyses, structural techniques, and revision practices. Please refer to these activities as you begin to write your essay.

This assignment helps to fulfill the following learning outcomes:

\*Break down and analyze the rhetorical moves made in a primary text, and then arrange and assemble those details in an essay explaining their overall purpose/effect for a specialized/academic audience.

\*Read, summarize, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate texts in a variety of styles, genres, and mediums, demonstrating the ability to do so in forms that may include—but are not limited to—class discussions, quizzes, annotations, and writing about writing

\*Revise and edit multiple drafts to produce writing that is well organized, mechanically and grammatically sound, and mostly error free.

What I will be looking for:

**A Clear, Thoughtful Thesis:** Are you addressing an issue that readers could have different opinions about? Are you making an interesting point? Have you avoided a “duh” thesis or simple summary of the text?

**Specific Textual Support:** Every claim you make needs evidence to back it up. Imagine a cranky reader who is ready to argue with every point you are making. Do you have the quotes and examples to convince a skeptical audience?

**Rhetorical Awareness:** Have you shown your understanding of what other people have written about or think about in regards to your issue or theme? Have you represented their positions fairly and accurately and responded to them? Does your analysis show your understanding of the text’s representation of reality through their choices as a writer? Do you explore how these choices affect the reader’s perception and interpretation?

**Effective Structure:** I want to know where the essay is going and what it will be about after the first paragraph. I want information presented in a logical, organized way. If you're using a point by point organization, each paragraph should stick to one point. Essentially, you need an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

**Analysis, Not Summary:** Do not summarize the whole text for me. Let your voice and ideas come through. Guide me through your interpretation. Don't just retell the story.

**Grammar and MLA:** The paper should be free of grammar errors and misspelled words. It should also be properly formatted according to MLA guidelines.