

## Rhetorical Analysis Assignment | Rhetoric 1 | Spring 2023

An important skill gained during a study of Rhetoric is the ability to analyze a work for rhetorical elements. You have spent the first semester of this course learning those elements and you have informally analyzed several speeches for their rhetorical content. Now you will take the time to look at one speech closely and carefully and construct an essay evaluating it rhetorically. The thesis of this essay quite simply answers the question: Is this speech effective in its use of rhetoric? Remember that the purpose of rhetoric is to persuade, so does the speaker accomplish this task?

The first step in this process is, of course, to carefully read the speech looking for rhetorical elements. You have been provided with a worksheet that steps you through this process. Don't breeze through this step—the more carefully you complete the worksheet now, the more material you will have as you begin crafting your essay. All of the elements on the worksheet have been covered in class and appear in the *Rhetoric Alive* text. Refer back to this text for information if you get stuck. You will submit the completed worksheet in class for a grade.

After your graded worksheet is returned, it's time to get started with your essay. Begin with the analysis portion—save the intro and conclusion paragraphs for last. There are optional turn-in dates for feedback to encourage you to not wait until the last minute. If you take advantage of this opportunity, you can use the feedback I provide to produce your best work and improve your abilities as a writer. If you choose to submit only a final draft, you receive the grade I give you without opportunity for revision.

Dates for submission are as follows:

1/10 Essay Assigned

1/17 Optional draft review of analysis paragraphs

1/24 Optional draft review of full essay

**1/31 Mandatory Final Draft—no late work without prior approval**

For the draft reviews, you must hand me a printed copy on the date listed above. You will not receive a grade for these drafts and there is no penalty for not completing them. Final essays will be graded according to a strict rubric and must meet all requirements.

Your final essay should be constructed according to the parameters below, reach 1,000 words, and be submitted to Turn-it-in the morning it is due.

### Introduction

Should include:

- Hook (gains attention – relates in a general way to speaker/subject)
- Transition to topic
  - Full name of author/speaker
  - Title of discourse
  - Date and location given
  - Context (pertinent background information)
  - Author/speaker's purpose
- Your thesis
  - The thesis is your critique on whether or not the author/speaker was effective (this should take into account the author's purpose and their use of the appeals). Remember that whatever you develop as your thesis you will need to prove in the body of your analysis).

Analysis (requiring at least 3 body paragraphs, with strong topic sentences for each as well as properly cited textual evidence and thorough analysis)

Should include:

- Type of Discourse
- Thesis
- Divisions
  - Introduction
  - Statement of Facts
  - Body
  - Refutation
  - Conclusion
- How each division support the thesis
- Type of Introduction
- Use of Appeals \*this will likely be the longest part of your RA\*
  - Ethos
  - Pathos
  - Logos
- Type of Conclusion
- Fallacies

Conclusion

Should include:

- Restatement of thesis (in different words)
- Summary of strengths or weaknesses of speaker/author
- Interesting ending (connect to hook?)