

RHETORICAL ANALYSIS SCAFFOLD

1. What is the title of your work, which you plan to analyze?

2. What is the name of the author?

3. What is the work about? (Briefly Summarize)

3. Who is the author? (Contextualize)

4. What do we know about her/him? (Contextualize)

5. Are there other texts by the same author which could help us to understand the work being analyzed? Or, are there any texts which provide autobiographical or biographical information about the author? (Contextualize)

6. What is the author's purpose or intent for writing this text? (Contextualize)

7. Who is the audience, and how do we know? (Contextualize)

8. Are there lines which point to a specific audience? (Contextualize)

9. Is an argument being presented? If so, what is being argued?

10. What is the claim/thesis of the argument?

11. What points of support are made?

12. Is the opposing viewpoint recognized? How?

13. Are facts used to support the argument?

14. Are there any other forms of evidence used to support the argument?

15. Are laws/codes/rules mentioned in the argument? How are they used?

16. Is Logos present? Are there statistics or other man-made forms of support?

17. Does the author make use of the assumptions or the beliefs of the audience?

Suggestions

- Always begin with your analysis with the name of the author and the title of the work (usually in the first sentence).
- Read and make notes about these concerns before answering these questions.
- You may need to read the text a few times to locate these conventions.