

ADVANCED RHETORICAL ANALYSIS

Formatting

11 Point Font

1-Inch Margins

Double-Spaced

Times New Roman font

Bibliographic and Parenthetical Citations (for all Quotes, Paraphrases, and Summaries)

Proper Page Format (Names, Page Numbers, etc)

+3 Pages (Full Pages)

Left Justification

Content

Select a reading from our textbook. Then, analyze the text by answering the following questions, when applicable:

Context

Who is the author? What do we know about them?

What is the purpose or intent of writing/creating this text?

Who is the audience? Who is the work intended for? How do you know?

Genre

What kind of text is this (argumentative, narrative, expository, informative, descriptive, creative, scientific, etc.)? How do you know?

Is the text formal or informal? How do you know?

What seems to be the tone of the text (happy, sad, mundane, etc.)?

Style

What level is the diction?

What types of words are used? Do these words work effectively in reaching an appropriate audience? Are they impressive or seemingly pretentious?

What types of sentences are found? What kinds of sentences are found?

Can you quantify these types/kinds of sentences?

Is parallelism present? Where?

Are there rhythmic patterns which are evident? Is meter used? If so, how and where?

Does the author seem deliberate, strategic, random? Explain.

Does the author use ornaments? Are there tropes? Are there Schemes? Other rhetorical/literary techniques? Where, how, and why?

Focus

What is the focus/subject matter of the text?

What is the thesis/claim? Explain. Where is it located?

What are the main points/events of the text?

Is there a climatic point of the text?

What types of natural support is present? Explain.

If ethos, logos, and pathos are used, then how and where are they used?

What kinds of introductory or concluding strategies are used? Are these seemingly effective? Why or why not?
Does the text have a definite organization which can be deciphered or is it seemingly random in orientation? Would changing the organization/arrangement of the ideas/concepts dramatically change the text or not?
Is there a counterargument, rebuttal, or refutation? What is discussed? Where is this section located?
Does the text contain logical fallacies?
Does the text contain faculty support, totally anecdotal, or fictionalized evidence? Is the material dated? When was it written? Are there codes, laws, or rules presented which can be questioned? Do they seem ethically/morally acceptable? Or, does the author lie? How do you know he/she is telling the truth?
Does the author use assumptions? Are the assumptions faulty? If so, where are these assumptions?
Does the author use source documentation? How might this be significant?
What sources are used? Are these reliable sources? Can you trace one to the source to verify validity?

Structuralist Nuances

Are there Structuralist conventions which are significant? Consider connotation and denotation of words? Are there terms being used normally or misused? Where & how?
Are there other structures (linguistic, organizational, content-oriented, thought-oriented) which seem evident and/or reinforced?
Does the text present morals, ethics, laws, codes, suggestions, assumptions, etc. which seem to reinforce the focus?

Post-Structuralist Nuances

Is the author important to our understanding of the text? Why or why not?
Which ideas/notions seem central to make meaning and action seem stable? Would de-centering these ideas/notions make a difference? How?
Are their ideas/notions/content which are not mentioned or which are seemingly marginalized? Would their inclusion change the text? Why or why not? How?
Are stereotypes reinforced? Are they broken? Are social and or linguistic norms reinforced? Are they broken?

Modernist Nuances

Are issues (or possible issues) related to money and/or power mentioned? Can money or power be presented metaphorically in any part of the text? Explain.
Who seems to have the power in this text? An individual? A small group? A large group or collective? How is it used?
Is there symbolism present? Imagery? Metaphors? Do these have any psychoanalytical/Jungian equivalents?
Are there themes or motifs (short phrases) which are repeated?
Is technology mentioned? If so, in what capacity is it discussed?
Is there intertext? If so, where? And, how and why is it used?

Post-Modernist Nuances

If technology is mentioned, does the technology discuss any "unintentional consequences"? How and/or why?
Are there after-effects of technology, social systems or power relations mentioned?
What are they? Where are they? What might be their significance?

How is humanity viewed in the text? Favorably or unfavorably? Explain.

You must incorporate thoughts from the original source into your work (providing paraphrases and/or quotations as needed from each).