

Project 2 – The Analysis Paper

This assignment requires 2,000 words, or about 8 pages, for 20 points

Purpose: Analyze an argumentative article or op-ed to determine the specific genre and rhetorical strategies used by the author. Make sure the article is long enough to provide ample content to analyze. *Do not choose a letter to the editor.*

Audience: Your instructor and your peers.

The Assignment

Choose an argumentative article or op-ed from *Read, Reason, Write's* Section 5 Collection of Readings, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Greyhound*, *The Washington Post* or *The New York Times* and analyze it. You may also choose an article from a non-mainstream media outlet—something from the far left or far right. Sometimes they can be the most fun to analyze! Once you have analyzed the article, explain and evaluate in detail the specific genre and rhetorical strategies the author uses to present ideas:

1. Introduction (one paragraph)
2. The specific argumentative genre (one paragraph)
3. The rhetorical situation: purpose, audience, context, topic, and angle (one or two paragraphs)
4. The rhetorical proofs—ethos, pathos, logos (two or three paragraphs)
5. Any logical fallacies you find (one paragraph)
6. The effectiveness of the article considering its genre and rhetorical situation (one paragraph)
7. Conclusion (one paragraph)

Use *specific* examples from your chosen essay to support your position. You may also use material from *Read, Reason, Write* or the Purdue OWL to help you build your case.

Assignment Goals

The goals of this assignment are as follows:

1. Demonstrate your ability to analyze for genre and rhetorical strategies
2. Compose a clear, well-organized essay with specific examples
3. Demonstrate your ability to follow MLA, APA, or CMS citation style

Reminder: Sometimes, students don't feel comfortable writing an analysis because they may not have written one before. Some students fall back into comfort zones and write papers similar to ones they've written in the past: summary of what the article says, position paper on whether or not they agree with the author. *Do not write these types of papers.*

The Format

This paper *must* adhere to MLA, APA, or CMS guidelines and must be around *2,000 words in length*. Create a citation page and please follow MLA, APA, or CMS standards for in-text citation. The paper will be titled, typed in 12 point Times New Roman (or similar font), double-spaced, with 1 inch margins all the way around.

Grammar/mechanics rubric: for every 5 errors, I will deduct 1 point.

At the top of page 1, please type the following statement and sign your name: “I understand and will uphold the ideals of academic honesty as stated in the Honor Code.”

Paper 2 Checklist

Use this checklist as a guide to help you write/edit your paper:

_____ Introduction paragraph provides the author’s name, title of the piece, source and date of publication, as well as an overview of the topic and conclusions discussed in the article

_____ Introduction includes your thesis statement, which should argue for a specific genre of the article you have analyzed and assert whether or not you think the author was effective given the piece’s genre and rhetorical situation

_____ Transitions connect different ideas in the body of the paper

_____ Topic sentences are clear and announce the information that follows

_____ *Detailed* evidence supports the claim(s) in each paragraph

_____ Brief wrap up connects information in paragraphs with paper’s thesis—in other words, the brief wrap up shows *how and why* the evidence supports the thesis

_____ Structure is clear and required elements are included (see the first numbered list)

_____ Conclusion wraps up ideas without repeating introduction verbatim

Revision

From Projects 1 and 2, you may choose **one** paper to revise. Your revision will be due with Project 3 and your PowerPoint presentation on our final exam day. You may not use the revision due date as an extension for this paper.