

Essay 1: Summarizing & Analyzing Rhetorical Strategies

- GOAL** The goal of this essay is to *accurately* **summarize** another writer's article and to analyze the writer's rhetorical strategies. Your primary goal as a writer is to **inform** your reader about the content of the article and the writer's rhetorical strategies. Your secondary goal as a writer is to **appropriately determine** the writer's rhetorical effectiveness.
- TOPIC** Choose *one* article from the given list **or** *one* article from the back of TS/IS.
- DIRECTIONS** **Summarize** the writer's main points. Focus on the writer's points – what do “they say”? After summarizing the writer's main points, **present** their rhetorical strategies – how do they attempt to convince their audience? Finally, **explain** whether or not the author's rhetorical strategies are **effective** – do the rhetorical choices further the rhetorical goal(s) of the author's article? **Your essay is about what your article says, how it says it, and whether it is effective. Your essay is not an argument. You should not agree or disagree with the author at any point in your essay.**
- FORMAT** The essay should be 3-5 full pages, typed and double spaced, and include a work cited page. The MLA-style works cited page should include the article you have chosen for a total of one (1) entries. The essay must include **at least four quotations**, which must be correctly formatted using MLA-style parenthetical citation, and **at least four TS/IS templates**, including at least one (1) to introduce a quotation (see p. 46) and one (1) to explain a quotation (see p. 47). You **may not** use any other sources for this essay. When you use quotes, make sure you “sandwich” them, as described in class and in Chapter 3 of TS/IS.
- AUDIENCE** As you write each part of your essay, assume that your audience (me and your classmates) may not be completely familiar with the essay you have chosen.
- SUBMISSION** You must submit a hard copy of this essay **and** upload an electronic copy via Sakai. With your final submission, you will also submit your draft and peer review sheet(s). Missing drafts will result in -10pts from the Essay #1 grade. Short drafts will result in -5pts from the Essay #1 grade. If your hard copy **or** Sakai submission is late, the paper is late.
- DUE DATES** HW #3: Essay #1 Pre-Writing **DUE** January 25, 2017
Essay #1 Draft **DUE** February 15, 2017
Essay #1 Peer Review February 15, 2017
Essay #1 **DUE** February 20, 2017

RUBRIC/GRADING

Effectively written essays excel because they have a clear focus, a unified and coherent organization, sufficient development, an engaging and appropriate style, and correct grammar and mechanics. Your essay will be evaluated using the following rubric that spells out the expectations for the writing assignment in the five composition areas:

Focus

- The essay contains a clear thesis statement that indicates the writer's purpose.
- The essay maintains a clear, unified focus throughout, never pursuing tangents or including extraneous information.
- The essay does not try to do too many things considering the length of the assignment.

Organization

INTRODUCTION

- The essay introduces the article and author in the introduction.
- The introduction supplies any necessary background information.
- The introduction clearly indicates the writers' purpose, often in the form of a thesis statement or statements.

BODY

- The body of your essay should contain a series of coherent, developed paragraphs.
- The body paragraphs should satisfy the readers' expectations about the topic based on your introduction and your thesis.
- Body paragraphs are units of expression whose indentations signal a new main point (topic sentence) or unified and coherent unit of thought.
- The order of paragraphs should have clear logic. Paragraphs may be arranged chronologically, by order of importance, complexity (easy to difficult, etc.), point by point with interlaced examples, or some other carefully considered structure.
- There is no one (1) way to organize your body paragraphs. The goal of the body is to remain focused and flowing, allowing your reader to easily read through your essay.

CONCLUSION

- The conclusion needs to signal to the reader that the essay is complete.
- The conclusion should not merely repeat word-for-word the ideas in the introduction and the body.

Development

- Your paragraphs contain sufficient **development** of the general topic sentence.

- The development in your body paragraphs **helps** your readers understand what the topic sentence ideas mean and why they are important.

Style

- The style of the essay should be formal and academic.
- The best way to establish an academic voice is with an objective third person (he, she, they, it) persona. Objective, academic writing should not come across to the reader as dull, pretentious, or unnatural.
- ***First person (I, me, we, us, our) is not necessary or appropriate in this essay. Be specific about who you mean as you write.***
- Second person (you) is only appropriate in process types of writing, where the writer is giving directions. **Avoid the use of second person** in all other academic writing situations unless explicitly asked to use it. Do not use “you” in this paper.