

Analytical Essay

This assignment will continue our work with response writing, as we examine a specific genre of response, rhetorical analysis.

To begin, choose one of the articles on Education posted on our BB site under Additional Readings OR one of the chapters (excluding chapters 1-3) from Beavan's book *No Impact Man*.

Next, read the article/chapter multiple times. Each reading gives you a chance to look at the writing from a different angle. Once you understand the main idea of the piece, focus on examining the writing for rhetorical strategies such as those discussed in our text and in the notes from class. Examples of questions to consider while reading:

- What is the main issue here?
- Who is the intended audience?
- How is this author seeking to influence this audience's views on the subject?
- What strategies does the author use to fulfill this purpose? Consider strategies such as word choice (connotations of certain words/phrases in particular), opening paragraph, organization of ideas, similes/metaphors/analogies, audience appeals, and information deliberately left out of the article.
- How does this piece of writing function as a whole? How do different elements work together to create a specific effect?

When ready, **start writing** your response to these and other questions for analysis discussed in class notes. We will review a structure for this paper as well during class time.

Minimum Requirements for Final Draft

- ✓ At least one face-to-face conference session **outside of class time** with either Rebekah or me before submission of the final draft is required. Sign up for conference sessions will take place week 8 (see course schedule); those who do not sign up at this time are responsible for doing so ASAP. Please review contact information and office hours/location on syllabus and on Blackboard under the Instructor/TA Info tab for more details. Failure to attend a conference session before submission of the final draft will have the same point penalty as failure to participate in peer evaluation workshop—see syllabus for more details. This includes failing to show up on time for a scheduled conference.

- ✓ MLA essay format
- ✓ MLA in-text citation for all quotes from the original writing AND MLA Works Cited entry for the article included at the end of the analysis.
- ✓ 800 word minimum excluding Works Cited entry
- ✓ Clear focus on analysis, rather than summary or description of the original writing
- ✓ Logical organization of ideas into defined structure: opening, body and conclusion
- ✓ Discussion of rhetorical elements in the original piece, including intended audience, genre, thesis, and appeals to audience

Important Dates and Deadlines

Wednesday, 10/15: Typed rough draft due in class for workshop. [Sign up in class for conferences](#)

Week 9: conferences; no classroom meeting. Typed rough draft required for conference session.

Friday, 10/31: final draft due via Blackboard assignment dropbox by 11:59 PM.