

Reading and Writing For College Success Major Assignment:
Rhetorical Analysis
OR
Multi-Stanza Poetry

Option 1: Rhetorical Analysis

The Task:

A rhetorical analysis refers to a close-reading that examines and interprets the specific choices an author makes in order to meet the demands of their rhetorical situation (ie: produce their desired outcome in their intended audience). This means, among other options, focusing on how small choices in language, syntax, organization, and tone aid the writer in achieving their intended goals. For Susan Bordo's "Never Just Pictures," compose a rhetorical analysis of *how* the writer is achieving her intended goals (as opposed to a summary of her literal meaning)

Requirements:

Writing a successful rhetorical analysis will require you to:

- Compose a thesis that directs the reader to multiple choices in language/structure/tone that the author is using to accomplish their goal
 - Efficiently introduce and contextualize the text that you intend to discuss -
- Conclude with a paragraph that synthesizes your message
- Develop multiple body paragraphs using quoted material from your text as evidence -
- Transition effectively between paragraphs by building logical connections - Use punctuation, syntax, and diction that meets the expectations of a formal academic paper

The text with which you will write the rhetorical analysis:

<https://www.cynthialawson.com/teaching/media/neverjustpictures.pdf>

Option 2: Multi-Stanza Poetry

The Task:

Poetry is a realm where the smallest choices are subject to the tightest scrutiny. Given the compressed form, every word, every punctuation mark, matters in a way that does not necessarily apply with prose. For this assignment, you'll be constructing a poem with a minimum of five stanzas, including correct usage of a variety of grammatical constructions. You will also give special attention to your first and final stanzas, taking advantage of the capacity of introductions and conclusions to affect the reader's experience and understanding of your meaning.

Content can be any thought, image, or experience you feel is worthy of artistic expression. It can take the form of found-poetry, free-verse, a sestina, or any other form that allows you to incorporate at least five stanzas in its construction.

The Requirements:

Grammatical choices must include:

- one parenthetical aside (not necessarily punctuated with parentheses) -
one list of three or more
- two introductory phrases or clauses
- one use of a semicolon to connect two independent clauses
- one use of a colon or dash to illustrate a logical connection

The poem should:

- Create a unified artistic effect (not five disconnected paragraphs)
- Have logical justification for stanza breaks and punctuation usage
- Incorporate a first stanza that effectively grabs the reader's attention
- Incorporate a concluding stanza that effectively turns the reader toward the poem's intended meaning