

Rhetorical Analysis (Summer Reading)

AP Language – To Be Turned in For a Quiz Grade

For the last two weeks, we have been learning about rhetorical analysis. For our first quiz grade, you are going to do a rhetorical analysis on one of the required books that you read over the summer. The books you are able to choose from are:

Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders
Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert
Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

In this analysis, you must choose one passage, chapter, or event from the novel and do a sustained rhetorical analysis of that moment. Do not do a rhetorical analysis of the book in its entirety. In this analysis, you should address at least three of the following questions:

- What is the exigence of this moment in the book?
- What target audience is being appealed to at this moment in the book?
- What constraints does the writer / speaker have to work within at this moment in the book?
- What appeals to ethos do you see at this moment in the book?
- What appeals to pathos do you see at this moment in the book?
- What appeals to logos do you see at this moment in the book?
- How well (or not well) does the writer or speaker respond to their rhetorical situation?

Your rhetorical analysis must be typed, written in complete sentences, in paragraph form, and must be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with 1” margins, and an MLA style header and title (even if the title is something ordinary, like “Rhetorical Analysis #1”).

Your rhetorical analysis should be 2½ - 3 pages, double spaced, and will be due next Tuesday, September 5th.

Rhetorical Analysis (Grading Rubric)

Main Idea _____ / 4

Your essay has a focused and clear main idea, and all of your writing choices work to support that main idea throughout the entire essay.

Evidence _____ / 4

Your essay provides specific evidence from your chosen book to support your analytical claims (such as, for example, what the exigence or target audience is).

Commentary _____ / 4

Your essay consistently explains how the evidence you've provided supports your claim, and you explain how multiple rhetorical choices in your chosen passage contribute to the writer / speaker's argument, purpose, or message.

Use of Key Terms _____ / 4

You use key terms from class (exigence, audience, constraints, rhetoric, ethos, pathos, logos, and so on) to support your claims.

Grammar, Flow of Ideas & Formatting _____ / 4

Your essay is overall well organized and easy to understand. It is written in paragraph form in complete sentences, and your writing employs a variety of sentence structures. If there are grammar mistakes, they are minor and easily forgotten, as they do not impede the overall meaning of the essay.

Total Points _____ / 20

_____ % / 100%