

Project 2: Rhetorical Analysis/Evaluation

Proposal due: Sept. 21

See more details on the Project 2 rubric.

Rough Draft/Author's Note due: ~~Oct. 1~~ Oct. 5

Final Draft Due: ~~Oct. 8~~ Oct. 10

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

In this unit, we will continue our journey into understanding (and questioning) academic and professional writing by considering what academic writing is, or at least what kind of writing you are being asked to do in college. You will be looking at an actual assignment or syllabus for another class and trying to figure out how it works – and **IF** it works. In doing so, hopefully you will think about why different classes ask you to do different types of intellectual work and different types of writing, so that when you encounter a new class, audience, and/or type of writing, you can analyze it effectively and figure out what you need to do to be successful. The key terms for this unit are **genre** and **rhetorical situation**.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

You will analyze an assignment or syllabus from another class. You will look at the rhetorical elements of this academic assignment, determining its genre and rhetorical situation. Then, you will evaluate its purpose and effectiveness. Basically, you will ask and answer, “What is this assignment doing rhetorically? For whom? How? And why?” Then, in your conclusion, you will argue that the assignment is effective or ineffective, based on its rhetorical elements.

You can choose an assignment or syllabus from whatever class you want, but you want to consider a class that matters to you in some way. Consider a class that you really like, in your major, OR one that you are struggling with. This assignment or syllabus needs to have some writing element. For instance, you can't choose your math homework, but you can choose a lab report assignment. You are analyzing the assignment itself, not the work you produced for the assignment.

Your essay should have three elements:

- 1) **A main idea/thesis statement:** In the introduction, summarize your assignment, telling us why you selected it. Then, your thesis statement should tell us 1) the rhetorical elements you will analyze, 2) the audience of the assignment, and 3) what you believe is the purpose of the assignment.
- 2) **Rhetorical analysis:** You will want to 1) identify key rhetorical elements of this assignment, and 2) tell us **why** you think they are present. Consider:
 - a. **Genre:** What type of assignment is it, and why does that matter?
 - b. **Rhetorical situation:** What are the elements of the rhetorical situation? When is this project assigned? By whom? What requirements are included? What is the context of this assignment? What is its purpose?
 - c. **Discourse community:** What ways of writing are you going to have to use? What communities/people are you learning to speak to and with? Who is part of this discourse community?
 - d. **Rhetorical appeals:** What pathos, ethos, and/or logos is present in this assignment? What are you being asked to use in the project itself?

Do not forget to consider WHY all four three of these elements are present, tying them to both audience and purpose. That is the analysis piece of the project.
- 3) **An effective conclusion:** Based on the analysis you did, evaluate the assignment. Does it meet its purpose for its audience (you, a current student)? Is it an effective assignment?

Why or why not? **This evaluation should be based on evidence you provide through your analysis.**

Combine all of these elements into a cohesive and well-written essay in which you analyze and evaluate an assignment, both considering why it is composed the way it is and if it is effective in how it is constructed. You are free to be honest, but you must base your evaluation on facts and evidence from your rhetorical analysis.

HOW LONG SHOULD IT BE? WHEN IS IT DUE?

Your essay should be **3-4 pages** (~900-1,200 words), **double-spaced, and in MLA format.** Please include a header with your name and the date, as well as a catchy title. **You should also include a PDF or Word copy of the assignment or syllabus you are analyzing.** Your analysis should be submitted as a **Word document.** This project is worth 15% of your grade.

Proposal is due by Tuesday, 9/21 at 10:50am to the Unit 2 Proposal assignment box on Blackboard. (See Week 6 for more information.) You will meet with me for a one-on-one Conference during Week 6.

Rough draft and author's note is due by ~~Friday, 10/1 at 11:59pm~~ Tuesday, 10/5 at 10:50am to the Project 2 Workshop Draft assignment box on Blackboard. (See Week 7/8 for more information.)

Final draft is due by ~~Friday, 10/8 at 11:59pm~~ Sunday, 10/10 at 11:59pm to the Project 2 Final: Rhetorical Analysis Assignment box on Blackboard.