

A rhetorical analysis is an essay in which students analyze (break down into its parts and explain those parts) a piece of text, examining the strategies the author used to make their point or argue their claim. Any rhetorical analysis should be in third person, academic language (No I or you or other first person).

Joliffe's Reminder

Make sure you look for information on the following:

Exigence: What was the spark or catalyst that moved the speaker to act?

Speaker: Who wrote/said this? Who are they?

Audience: Who is the intended audience? What assumptions are made?

Purpose: What is the speaker hoping to accomplish by putting this out into the world?

Context: What's going on in the world at this time? What's on the speaker's mind?

Annotation/ Note Taking

As you read, can you chunk the text? Remember to analyze chronologically as you go.

What **stylistic** choices does the speaker/ author make? rhetorical questions, repetition, imagery, syntax, irony, etc.

How does the speaker **create their appeals**: ethos/pathos/logos

How and where does **the tone shift**? The speaker's attitude, which often shifts in a text

Introduction

The introduction should contain all the details of the article's publication- author, title, date **and a clear thesis statement of what the author's message/ purpose/ main claim is**. Add other things that reference tone and overall structure if they are important to the effectiveness of the text.

Body Paragraphs (At Least Two)

The body is the breakdown of the author's article and is not a set number of paragraphs. Students should look for patterns and discuss/explain the different strategies, appeals, types of evidence or even rhetorical devices the author uses as they moves chronologically through the article, giving examples (quotes) and explaining what their intended affect on the audience would have been.

Conclusion Paragraph

Minimum to make sure you have the thesis point: 1-2 Sentences rewording thesis and basic speaker/ audience relationship.

****For a Chance at Sophistication Point IF YOU HAVE TIME & Have Already Proofread: Write 3-4 Sentences explaining the significance of the text within a broader context (relate the text to the real world).

Before Submitting

- 1) Read your response **aloud** word-for-word. Fix anything that sounds odd.
- 2) Red underlined words are misspelled. Blue underlines show possible grammar errors. To fix either underlined notification, hover the cursor over the underlined word and two-finger click for the help/advice box.

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

Popular Words to Describe Tone and Diction

Note: ALWAYS describe the type of diction being used. NEVER write "diction" without first using an adjective.

Accusatory: suggesting wrongful action
Admiring: approving; praising
Apologetic: full of regret; remorseful
Appreciative: grateful; thankful
Assertive: self-confident; authoritative
Candid: truthful, straightforward
Cautionary: gives warning; reminding
Celebratory: praising; glorify; honour
Compassionate: sympathy/empathy
Critical: finding fault; disapproving;
Curious: inquisitive; questioning
Defensive: shielding; guarding; watchful
Defiant: obstinate; argumentative
Dignified: respectful; formal; proper
Diplomatic: tactful; subtle; thoughtful
Encouraging: optimistic; supportive
Enthusiastic: excited; energetic
Frank: honest; direct; matter-of-fact
Frustrated: annoyed; discouraged
Gentle: kind; considerate; mild; soft

Grim: serious; gloomy; depressing
Humble: deferential; modest
Impartial: unbiased; neutral; objective
Impassioned: filled with emotion
Imploring: pleading; begging
Informative: instructive; factual
Inspirational: encouraging; reassuring
Judgmental: critical; finding fault
Mourning: grieving; lamenting; woeiful
Objective: without discrimination
Optimistic: hopeful; cheerful
Outraged: angered and resentful
Philosophical: theoretical; rational
Sentimental: thinking about feelings
Sincere: honest; truthful; earnest
Thoughtful: reflective; serious
Tragic: disastrous; calamitous
Unassuming: modest; self-effacing
Uneasy: worried; nervous
Urgent: insistent

Analysis Verbs

acknowledges	contends	documents	implies	produces
admits	conveys	elicits	insists	reasons
agrees	creates	emphasizes	inspires	refutes
alters	demonstrates	endorses	invokes	rejects
argues	denies	enhances	maintains	remarks
claims	describes	explores	manipulates	reports
clarifies	details	highlights	masters	responds
compares	differentiates	hints at	mentions	reveals
concludes	dispels	ignites	observes	shifts
confirms	disputes	illustrates	portrays	twists

Transitions

Addition	Result	Comparison	Contrast
In addition (to) Additionally, Furthermore, Also As well as Not only...but also	Therefore, Thus Consequently, For this reason, As a result,	Similarly, Similar to In the same way	Nevertheless, On the other hand, In contrast (to) Whereas Alternatively,
Concession	Illustration	Reason	Generalization
Although Even if/so/though However, In spite of	For example For instance Such as Including	Due to In order to With this in mind,	For the most part, In general,