

Rhetorical Analysis Essay Outline

I. Introduction: Rhetorical Précis:

- A. Name of author, (appositive phrase about the author to establish credibility & authority) genre, and title of work; a rhetorically accurate verb (such as “assert,” “argue,” “suggest,” “imply,” “claim,” etc.); and a **THAT** clause containing the major assertion (thesis statement) of the work.
- B. An explanation of how the author develops and/or supports the thesis, usually in chronological order.
- C. A statement of the author’s apparent purpose followed by an “in order” phrase.
- D. A description of the intended audience and the relationship the author establishes with the audience

II. Body Paragraph #1:

- A. Topic sentence/transition: “(author’s last name) begins with/by...(make your claim about what strategy you see working address the purpose/prompt)”
- B. Specific example to support idea: provide EXPLICIT textual support woven into your comments to support your claim. Thoroughly discuss all strategies used in the beginning section, supporting with text. (Should be at least two or more complex, stylistic sentences.)
- C. Discussion of how examples supports idea: Connect the strategy back to your main claim/thesis/the purpose.

III. Body Paragraph #2:

- A. Topic sentence/transition: “After... the author moves to...” “Building off the strategy he/she used to begin, he/she ...” Connect an idea from the last sentence of the previous paragraph to the first sentence of this paragraph showing how the strategies build upon each other.
- B. Provide EXPLICIT textual support woven into your comments to support your claim. Thoroughly discuss all strategies used in the middle section, supporting with text. Should be at least two or more complex, stylistic sentences.
- C. Discussion of how example supports idea: Connect the strategy back to your main claim/thesis/ the purpose.

IV. Last Body Paragraph:

- A. Topic sentence/transition: “to close the essay/speech, (author)...” “Concluding the argument he/she ...” Connect an idea from the last sentence of the previous paragraph to the first sentence of this paragraph showing how the strategies build upon each other.
- B. Provide EXPLICIT textual support woven into your comments to support your claim. Thoroughly discuss all strategies used in the middle section, supporting with text. Should be at least two or more complex, stylistic sentences.
- C. Discussion of how example supports idea: Connect the strategy back to your main claim/thesis/ the purpose.

V. Conclusion

- A. Restatement of thesis that digs deeper into the overall intended meaning of the text than the one in the introductory paragraph (Try not to begin your conclusion paragraph with “In conclusion”).
- B. Reflection on examples and main ideas in body paragraphs, significance of these strategies, AND how they are linked to your thesis.
- C. State if these were effective in conveying the claim/thesis/purpose.
- D. Closing thought - closing out the main purpose of the text being analyzed.