

# What does RAB stand for?

- **Reflective:** Looking at something closely to see what it is and how it works.
- **Annotated:** Annotate means “to mark.” We annotate – mark up something – so we can think more carefully about it. So we can explain it.
- **Bibliography:** Comes from Latin “biblio” meaning books, and “graphia” meaning writing. It has come to mean a list of books and other materials.

*Why do we use annotated bibliographies? To save us a whole lot of time and aggravation!*

# Traditional Annotated Bibliographies (You'll be doing something slightly different!)

Metri, Angela Elizabeth. "The Importance of Design." *Medium*, 9 July 2019, <https://medium.com/@aemetri/the-importance-of-design-187c3ce45961>

The article contains basic information to introduce people to design. It gives information about how design has evolved throughout the years with different companies attempting to master their brand design for the industry. For example, designers developed infographics to make it simple and easy to understand what they want to convey. These came from basic sketches and drawings used to create a new language without using words. The article also says that one way to know how to understand what design is is by learning the technical side behind it. The easier it is to use a design, the better the design. If the design is bad then that means we wouldn't be able to use it very easily. That's the very basis of how the eye can distinguish a good and bad design.

This article was published in 2018 which isn't that long ago and still is relevant since it talks mostly about the general history and what design is on paper. Medium.com is a known platform where people are allowed to post essays or blogs about whatever topic they want. Some are written by professionals and others are written by normal people wanting to express their opinions. The author of the article is a writer but although they aren't a designer themselves, they stated the sources used to speak about what design is in their essay. I would use this info to simply state the basics about design and to introduce the audience to what I will be speaking about.

# So what IS an RAB?

Think of it as an *analytical annotated bibliography*.

It is a listing of resources about a particular topic that does not just summarize each of the resources, but also analyzes them in order to thoroughly understand their...

- **PURPOSE:** Why does it exist? What message is it trying to communicate? What strategies does it use to communicate this message? How is it trying to influence its intended audience?
- **AUDIENCE:** Who exactly is it trying to reach? How effective do you think it is at reaching its intended audience?
- **AUTHOR:** Who is the person/people/organization that has/have created the resource? Are they credible? What are their credentials? How do we know?

We do this in order to foster within us a deeper understanding of a particular topic BEFORE we fully develop our own position toward it. Again, this is about CURIOSITY!

# What the RAB isn't

- It is not a persuasive paper where you take a position and try to prove it. **An RAB starts with questions instead of answers** - it's about curiosity and seeing where the research takes you.
- It is not a library only research project. An RAB asks you to look everywhere!
  - Peer-reviewed journal articles in the library (**one peer-reviewed journal article is REQUIRED**)
  - Credible websites and news organizations
  - Credible videos and podcasts
  - Interviews and field work that *you* do
  - And more! Check with me if you are unsure about a resource.

# Outline of the RAB Assignment (briefly)

Introduction (at least 300 words)

Source Analysis of THREE sources in different genres (at least 400 words each)

- Bibliographic information (*does not count toward word count*)
- Summary of source
- 2-3 key quotes (*does not count toward word count*)
- Rhetorical analysis and reflection

Conclusion/Reflection (at least 400 words)

*Total assignment will be at least 1900 words. Most students write more.*

## Introduction (at least 300 words; 1-2 paragraphs)

- Introduce your question/topic.
- Explain why it interests you.
- Tell us what you wish to find out more about. Get curious!

*This part is personal so you can use “I” – it’s your topic!* You can even think of the introduction as your proposal, or your proposal as your introduction.

# An example of a proposal/introduction (excerpt)

## Black Holes

Space is something that has always interested me throughout my life. When I was a kid I would always go out and stare at the stars, wanting to be an astronaut. As I got older, I would learn more and realize just how little we know about the universe. One of the biggest examples of this would be our understanding of black holes. Black holes are one of the most mystifying things we've ever encountered, often becoming the most entertaining part of sci-fi and space movies/books/comics/games. Movies like *Interstellar* and people like Stephen Hawking have recently popularized the topic in the past 15 years. I've always had preconceived ideas of how black holes appear and disappear, but I've decided to now learn what the actual science is behind it, expecting to find a lot of different theories and learn information I've never expected, including whether we should worry about them having an impact on our planet.

# Source Analysis (from the assignment sheet)

**THREE source analyses in alphabetical order** (at least 400 words each). Each of these three sources will need to be a different genre. That is, you can't have three magazine articles or three YouTube videos.

- **Bibliographic entry.** Use something like [easybib.com](http://easybib.com) or the [Purdue OWL](#) (go to Research & Citation → MLA) to help you get the formatting correct. *This is NOT just the URL.*
- **1-2 paragraph Summary** of the source's content.
- **2-3 Key Quotes.**
- **2-3 paragraph Rhetorical Analysis:**
  - The audience: who are they, and how do you know?
  - The context: what larger historical, social, political, and/or cultural events is the resource informed by?
  - The purpose: why did the author write this? Information, persuasion, entertainment, a combination?
  - Discussion of form and language: tone (funny, satirical, serious, emotional, combination), language (academic, expert, conversational), organization, the genre, and any other strategies the author uses to achieve their purpose and reach their intended audience.
  - Evidence: does the author use statistics? Scientific studies? Personal experience? Interviews? Historical evidence? Eye-witness accounts? Expert testimony? Something else?
  - If there are visuals, how they are used either alone or together with text?



# Rhetoric and rhetorical analysis

**The term “rhetoric” comes to us from Ancient  
Greece**

*Rhetor = speaker*

*Rhetoric = how a message is strategically put  
together to make an audience react a certain  
way.*



# Rhetorical Situation

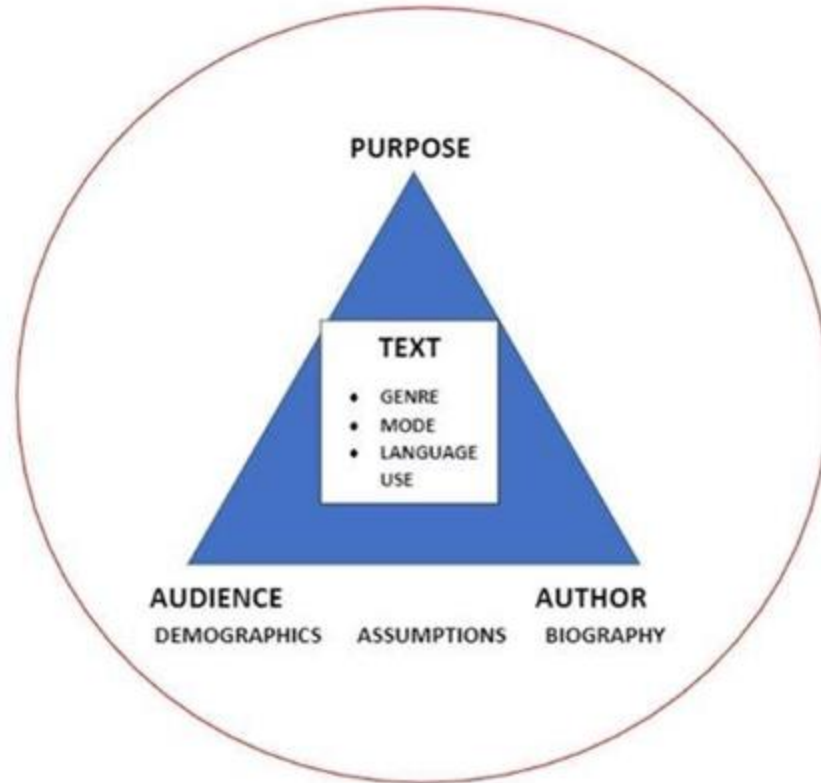
Any communication act is rhetorical – somebody is putting together a message to get somebody else to pay attention. When we write and we speak, we are making CHOICES aimed toward achieving a particular GOAL

- To inform
- To persuade
- To entertain
- To all three!!!

And we can look at how that happens using...

## THE RHETORICAL SITUATION

HISTORICAL CONTEXT



SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

# Tools to analyze each source

- The rhetorical situation triangle will help you remember that you're looking at each point on the triangle as well as the big circle that indicates context.
- A [rhetorical analysis worksheet](#) will help you gather information on author, audience, purpose, text, and CRAAP (currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, purpose).



# First stop – find a question and do research!!

*All research starts with a question, something you're REALLY curious about.* Why is the Great Barrier Reef dying?

*Ask questions about it:* who, what, when, where, why, how

*Go do a little research* (yes, you can start with Wikipedia [and Google] as long as you don't quote the Wiki page – the references and links can give you great places to find more information.)

*Don't overlook field work* – interviews that you do yourself. If the topic is current, and it affects people, then their opinions can be combined with more “expert” information to make for a great bibliography (and you annotate it the same way).

# Next step, creating the RAB Source Analysis

- **Bibliographic entry...** easy
- **Summary...** One to two paragraphs saying what's in the source: the main idea and the evidence that supports that idea. NO OPINION FROM YOU!!!
- **2-3 Key Quotes...** yep. Still easy. Find ones that really resonated with you – that you loved or hated or found especially interesting.
- **Rhetorical Analysis...** One to three paragraphs that talk about the rhetorical situation

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# Conclusion/Reflection (at least 400 words)

- **Briefly summarize** what you learned from doing this research. What surprised you? How did your thinking on the question/topic deepen or change? What happened to your initial question?
- **What do *you* think about these ideas?** Do you think the authors supported their ideas well and made their point, or not, and why? (Avoid simply agreeing or disagreeing with the author; explain your full reaction. Quote particular sentences to which you are responding.) What questions do you have about what the author said? What don't you understand? What other information do you need to (or did) look up to better understand your sources? If you could say something to the author(s), what would you say? Which genres worked best to answer your questions? Why?
- **Talk about why you think what you learned is important, and** who you think should hear about it.

# What's the point of all of this?

We've looked at how..

1. An RAB is about questions, not answers, not persuasion. It's about following your curiosity.
2. Research isn't limited to the library. **But you are required to use one academic resource.**
3. The rhetorical situation triangle can help us understand any text or communication act.
4. The **rhetorical analysis worksheet** can help gather all of that information.

*Now take a moment to write down how you think any of this might be useful to you, either in class or in real life.*