WRITING THROUGH THE RHETORICAL MODES

SECTION 1: A RHETORICAL MODES READER

Chapter One: The Narrative Mode

Cause and Effect: Reading 1

Diane Ackerman, "The Brain on Love"

Diane Ackerman is an American poet, essayist, and children's book author whose interests focus primarily on the natural world.

https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/24/the-brain-on-love/?_r=1

Questions for Reading and Discussion

1) Ackerman begins her article with the assertion, confirmed by neurobiology, that "what we pay the most attention to defines us. How you choose to spend the irreplaceable hours of your life literally transforms you." In the light of this assertion, what activities do you want to spend more time pursuing? What activities do you want to spend less time pursuing? How does your own experience confirm or contradict this assertion?

2) What are the benefits and drawbacks of knowing how love works and endures in the brain?

Questions for Writing and Research

1) Following from the proposition that "We don't just get under a mate's skin, we absorb him or her," write an essay in which you analyze yourself as the outcome of all the people and relationships that you have "absorbed." How are you the product of your individual relationships with specific family members, friends, romantic partners, community leaders, teachers, coaches, etc?

2) What happens to the brain when a person falls in love? Using this article as a starting point, research how neuroscience answers this question. Then, write a paper in which you compare the neurobiological answer to this question with the answer provided by TV, movies, and other popular forms of entertainment. Which answer do you think is most helpful for everyday people hoping to fall in love? According to each answer, what actions should people take in order to ensure that they fall in love? According to each answer, what actions should people take in order to ensure that they stay in love?

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