

WRITING THROUGH THE RHETORICAL MODES

SECTION 2: A RHETORICAL MODES READER

Chapter One: Developing a Response Essay

Developing a Response: Reading 2

Joe Queenan, “Eight Reasons New York is Better”

Joe Queenan is a movie critic and satirist who writes for several American periodicals, most notably the New York Times Book Review and the Wall Street Journal. Though a native of Philadelphia, he argues here that New York is better.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/28/nyregion/new-york-observed-eight-reasons-new-york-is-better.html>

Assignment:

Joe Queenan’s essay argues that despite statistics that challenge job availability and the rising length of commuting times, the benefits of living in New York City—such as arts and cultural institutions and a clear sense of a “downtown” (as opposed to the sprawl of the suburbs)—outweigh living in other American cities. Write an essay that discusses whether you find this claim legitimate.

Your essay must present a clear thesis. Support your thesis with details to illustrate your position. In your essay, you may use examples from your own experience and/or something you have read, viewed, or witnessed to demonstrate your point. In addition, you must directly reference Queenan’s essay to support your claims and illustrate how you are responding his ideas.

Your response essay should be about five paragraphs will be assessed on the following:

- Clarity of the argument/thesis.
- Development of your argument/thesis and utilization of the rhetorical modes: description, comparison and contrast, narration, cause and effect, definition, and/or exemplification.
- Integration of your ideas with the ideas in the texts through paraphrases and direct quotations. Balance your own analysis with ideas in the text.
- Organization of your overall essay
- Language and mechanics, such as sentence clarity and fluid use of transitions.



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