Prof. Fox ENG 1101

Fall 2019

**Unit 2** **Rhetorical Analysis Assignment**

**Part A**

1200 words A rhetorical analysis of 3 different genres which relate to *the same* topic or

issue of your choice

During the week of **October 7th**, you will confirm via email your choice of a topic or issue, and submit a list of your 3 documents or multi-modal pieces using MLA style documentation.

On **October 28th**, submit the completed draft of your rhetorical analysis of the three documents or pieces.

Unit 2 reading for Part A: Kerry Dirk, “Navigating Genres” Read this over the week of **October 7th**

**Part B**

600 words An annotated bibliography digesting the essential point, ideas, and/or examples in your three documents or pieces.

Due date: November 4th

**Directions for Part A**: We are going to begin research into *how a topic or issue we care about is presented and discussed.* In other words, we are going to research and analyze *how people talk about* the topic or issue, and we’ll begin by looking at some popular magazines. By doing this, we are essentially entering into and analyzing conversations about these topics or issues that are already in progress. You can, by the way, choose to work on an issue we’ve already been researching and discussing in some detail—language diversity.

Later, in unit 3 of our course, we will add our own unique voices to these conversations by producing our own document in a new, unfamiliar genre. Before we join the discussion about our topic or issue in unit 3, though, we will first teach ourselves about *how our topic or issue is discussed in public*. We will analyze such things as the rhetorical strategies writers use when discussing the topic or issue, and how they present their material to readers and or viewers. While our first piece of “research” will be an article from a popular magazine, we will then forge ahead and find 2 other *kinds, or genres* of writing about the topic or issue that are very different from a magazine article.

First, the magazine article:

We will have a brainstorming session where we all think about topics and issues that are really meaningful and important to each one of us, personally and individually (date: xx).From our brainstorming list, we will begin some preliminary research using popular magazines and webzines to help identify a topic or issue that each person wants to commit to exploring further. If you’re not sure, you can try to investigate two topics or issues at the same time and then make your decision.

What you choose to research is up to you and your own interests. If you have passionate feelings or a strong interest in the topic of , you could start with that. Your topic or issue could emerge from what you’ve read or seen in the news, from something related to your major in college, from a hobby or passion you have for something—dancing, sports, gaming, cooking, drawing, volunteering, etc.

What is a magazine or a webzine?

A magazine is a kind of publication that comes out periodically. It can be printed on paper (a magazine) or published online (a webzine).

Here is a *very* subjective list of magazines and webzines. Obviously, there are many more out there about topics in which you may be interested; it will be your job to bring them to our attention!

News topics and Issues: New York Magazine (nymag.com), TheNew Yorker.com, Health.com, [www.nationalreview.com](http://www.nationalreview.com), economist.com

Science and history topics and issues: nationalgeographic.com, smithsonianmag.com, sciencemag.com, discovermagazine.com

Computers and Tech topics and issues: Wired.com, MIT Technology Review, discovermagazine.com

Food and Culture topics and issues: gastronomica.com, alimentumjournal.com

Music topics and issues: billboard.com, hiphopdx.com, variety.com

Once you find a magazine article about your topic or issue that you’re happy with, you will then collect two other *kinds* of examples that illustrate how your topic or issue is discussed in the public sphere. Keep in mind that just because you locate an example of the topic or issue being discussed in another *genre*, it does not mean you have yet found the most interesting example for your investigation. It will take some hunting around to find examples with which you’re satisfied. You’ll need

1. imaginative text: a poem or short story
2. Visual/verbal text (a movie, a graphic novel, a comic strip, a children’s book, a website, a TedTalk, a Youtube interview or video)

For this assignment, your analysis will focus on *how the topic or issue is represented in these texts* rather than the issue itself. You will, however, use the insights and ideas you come across in these texts in the *next* assignment for unit 3.

**Directions for Part B: For instructions on the annotated bibliography (Part B of Unit 2), refer to the handout I will distribute in the beginning of October.**