

**Unit 2: Rhetorical Analysis Essay, due Wednesday, March 15**

**Skills:** critically responding to a single text; examining and explaining how an author’s rhetorical choices contribute to their broader argument.

**Percentage of Final Grade:** 10%

**Word Count:** 700-800 words

Please note that word limits are binding: an essay that does not meet the minimum word count, or that exceeds the maximum word count by more than 100 words is going to be penalized.

**Assignment Description**

Words have power, but words written to stir a nation to action have a very special kind of power. In this assignment, you will make an argument about the power of Martin Luther King’s words in **either** “I Have A Dream” **or** “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” Focus on a rhetorical choice King makes. Show the reader **WHAT** he says, **HOW** he says it, and **HOW** it helped you understand racism, or racial justice, in a new way.

A rhetorical choice could include... **[fill in examples here!]**

Whatever you choose to focus on, your essay should 1) place the reader in context, offering a general summary of the text; 2) describe the specific choice(s) in context, guiding the reader through what he says, how he says it, and why it’s puzzling/interesting/troubling; and 3) analyze how the choice helped you understand something about racism and racial justice that you wouldn’t have otherwise seen. (Does it complicate? Clarify? Something else?). Papers that take a “grocery list” approach to these requirements will be graded accordingly.\*

Essays will be graded on three fronts (Content, Organization, and Grammar/Formatting), according to the rubric included in the Syllabus.

**Dates**

**Due Monday, February 27:** Blog Post of the **first paragraph of your R.A. Essay Draft.** Introduce the text you’ve chosen, the rhetorical choice you’re focusing on, and why it interests you.

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\*A “Grocery List” is a kind of writing issue, in which the writer simply lists observations and/or different points about a subject, without drawing clear connections amongst those points and guiding the reader through an argument.

Due **Monday, March 6:** Rough Draft of R.A. essay due at the beginning of class, on OpenLab and in hard copy. IMPORTANT: Hard copy is necessary for our Peer Review workshop!

Due **Wednesday, March 8: Blog post #4** on how the re-vision process is showing you one positive and one negative feature of your writing that you wouldn't otherwise notice.

Due **Wednesday, March 15: Final Draft of RA essay** due at the beginning of class, in digital and physical form. Upload to OpenLab and bring a hardcopy to class. The hardcopy should include **1) your partner's peer review comments and 2) a brief description of your revision agenda, stapled to the back.**

### **Format Checklist**

Before submitting online and/or physically, ask yourself these questions!

Does my essay...

- 1) appear in a Word .doc format (for electronic uploading to OpenLab)?
- 2) include a thoughtful, *italicized* title (NOT "Rhetorical Analysis Essay")?
- 3) have a header with my *surname* and *page number* on the top right corner of each page, if the essay is more than one page?
- 4) include my *name*, *assignment name* (i.e. Rhetorical Analysis Essay), *course and section number*, *instructor name*, and *due date* on the top left corner of the first page?
- 5) Have a staple that attaches multiple pages (if I have more than one page) for my physical copy?
- 6) Have any required supplemental documents attached to the back of the essay? (e.g. peer review comments)

Essays that fail to comply with these essential conventions of academic writing will be penalized.

**The top of your essay should look like this:**

Maximus Carter  
Rhetorical Analysis Essay Final Draft  
English 1101, D342  
Professor Lucas Kwong

March 15, 2016

*Intriguing, Informative Title Related To Your Central Thesis*

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