ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Spring 2013

Composition 2

Prof. Scanlan

Essay 1: Picking Your Favorite: Or, What Is Rhetorical Success?

After reading these eight articles that have something to do with education and learning, choose your favorite, and then write an essay in which you explain why it is your favorite. We will use the term rhetorical success to help explore the idea of what makes something your favorite. By using the term rhetorical success, we will analyze how an essay works to convince you. For example, does one article use more humor or more facts? Rhetorical success is based on writing techniques. Success, for this essay, therefore, is not based on right versus wrong, but rather, success is based on the effective and persuasive use of logic, authority, emotion, or myth (the four modes of rhetoric).

Article Authors:

Isaac Asimov

Salvatore Scibona

Sherman Alexie

Jonathan Kozol

Julian Williams

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Margaret Sanger

Ngugi Wa Thiong’O

Your essay will be graded in terms of **FIVE** major features:

1. A clear title and an introduction that includes a powerful thesis, a brief summary (two sentences max) of the article and a methodology.

2. Clear reasons for rhetorical success and precise use of rhetoric terms.

3. Your essay must address these questions: what was learned?; who learned it?; and how did they learn?

Mechanics:

4. Use concrete nouns, well-structured sentences, and clear paragraphs.

5. Incorporate at least four direct quotations from the article into your essay and include a works cited page.

Details: Your essay must be between 600 – 700 words long (about three pages). It must be typed, double-spaced, and use a standard 12-point font. Please use spell-check and grammar-check. Use standard 1-inch margins and MLA format (see the Purdue OWL on our OpenLab website for guidance).

**Due Dates:**

Wednesday, Feb 20: First Draft due in class. Two pages minimum.

Wednesday, Feb 27 : Final Draft Due in class: in folder with process work

(322 words)