

British Literature

Analyzing Argumentative Writing

At Home Work weeks of 1/18 and 1/24

Part I

You will read three separate editorials, or opinion pieces, about the same issue (the cost of college)

Read and annotate each article carefully. The annotation for this assignment consists on clearly identifying and labeling the elements of a good persuasive essay as follows:

- A clear position or claim
- Arguments/reasons that support the claim
- Anticipation of reader's concern or objection
- Refutation of the reader concern (counterargument)
- A call to action
- Appeal to emotion (pathos)
- Appeal to logic (logos)
- Appeal to ethics (ethos)
- Appeal to authority
- Any other rhetorical devices you may find (metaphors, anastrophe, etc)

Part II

Choose the **one** article that you agree with the most, and answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. Who is the author? What are his/her credentials?
2. Do you think the author has the authority or expertise to give his/her opinion in this matter?
3. What is the author's claim?
4. List three good reasons that support the author's claim
5. Does the author provide a reader concern/anticipate an objection? Does he provide a counterargument? Explain in detail. Provide textual support.
6. Give two examples of **effective** rhetorical devices the author uses (see list above). Why are they effective?

Part III

Respond to the following questions about the other article (the one you mostly didn't agree with)

1. Who is the author? What are his/her credentials?
2. Do you think the author has the authority or expertise to give his/her opinion in this matter?

3. Why don't you agree with the author? Be as explicit as possible. Is his logic flawed? Are his facts incorrect? Does he rely too much on a particular rhetorical device (for example pathos)?

Part IV

Extended response (3-5 paragraphs)

What is your own opinion in this matter? Support with reasonable arguments.

Rubric:

Claim, arguments, reader concerns, counterarguments and a call to action are clearly identified and labeled in the articles____/10

Questions are completely and thoughtfully answered, following guidelines for literature responses especially offering textual support____/15

Extended response is complete and well articulated____/10

Grammar and spelling are correct, with minimal errors____/5

Total:

____/40