

# Examples Of Rhetorical Analysis Essay



## RHETORICAL ANALYSIS SAMPLE ESSAY

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### Not Quite a Clean Sweep: Rhetorical Strategies in Grose's "Cleaning: The Final Feminist Frontier"

A woman's work is never done: many American women grow up with this saying and feel it to be true. One such woman, author Jessica Grose, wrote "Cleaning: The Final Feminist Frontier," published in 2013 in the *New Republic*, and she argues that while the men in our lives recently started taking on more of the childcare and cooking, cleaning still falls unfairly on women. Grose begins building her credibility with personal facts and reputable sources, citing convincing facts and statistics, and successfully employing emotional appeals; however, toward the end of the article, her attempts to appeal to readers' emotions weaken her credibility and ultimately, her argument.

Hook  
Context  
Article author's claim or purpose  
Thesis

In her article, Grose first sets the stage by describing a specific scenario of house-cleaning with her husband after being shut in during Hurricane Sandy, and then she outlines the uneven distribution of cleaning work in her marriage and draws a comparison to the larger feminist issue of who does the cleaning in a relationship. Grose continues by discussing some of the reasons that men do not contribute to cleaning: the praise for a clean house goes to the woman; advertising and media praise men's cooking and childcare, but not cleaning; and lastly, it is just not fun. Possible solutions to the problem, Grose suggests, include making a chart of who does which chores, dividing up tasks based on skill and ability, accepting a dirtier home, and making cleaning more fun with gadgets.

Summary of the article's main points in the second paragraph (could also be in the introduction)

Throughout her piece, Grose uses many strong sources that strengthen her credibility and appeal to ethos, as well as build her argument. These sources include, "sociologists Judith Treas and Tsui-o Tai," "a 2008 study from the University of New Hampshire," and "P&G North America Fabric Care Brand Manager, Matthew Krehbiel" (qtd. in Grose). Citing these sources boosts Grose's credibility by showing that she has

Third paragraph begins with a transition and topic sentence that reflects the first topic in the thesis  
Quotes illustrate how the author uses appeals to ethos

Examples of rhetorical analysis essay provide readers with insights into how authors and speakers effectively use language to persuade their audiences. Rhetorical analysis is a critical skill that involves examining the strategies that writers and speakers employ to convey their messages. This article will explore various examples of rhetorical analysis essays, breaking down their components, and providing tips on how to craft a compelling analysis.

# Understanding Rhetorical Analysis

Rhetorical analysis is the examination of how authors use rhetoric to persuade their audience. It involves looking at the use of ethos (credibility), pathos (emotional appeal), and logos (logical reasoning) in a text. Analyzing these elements helps us understand not just what a text says, but how it says it.

## The Purpose of Rhetorical Analysis Essays

The primary purpose of a rhetorical analysis essay is to evaluate the effectiveness of the rhetoric used in a particular piece of writing or speech. By dissecting the components of the argument, the analysis provides a deeper understanding of the author's intentions and the audience's response.

## Examples of Rhetorical Analysis Essays

Here are some notable examples of rhetorical analysis essays that can serve as references for understanding the structure and components of a strong rhetorical analysis.

### 1. Analyzing Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech

One of the most celebrated rhetorical analysis essays examines Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

- Thesis Statement: The essay argues that King's use of repetition, imagery, and appeals to ethos and pathos contributed to the speech's effectiveness and its lasting impact on the Civil Rights Movement.

- Key Points:

- Repetition: The phrase "I have a dream" is repeated throughout the speech, reinforcing King's vision and creating a rhythmic quality that resonates with listeners.
- Imagery: King uses vivid imagery to paint a picture of an ideal future, making the audience visualize the change he advocates.
- Appeals to Ethos: By referencing his personal experiences and standing as a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, King establishes his credibility.

## 2. Analyzing Barack Obama's Inaugural Address

Another powerful example of a rhetorical analysis essay focuses on Barack Obama's inaugural address.

- Thesis Statement: This essay contends that Obama's use of inclusive language, historical references, and a call to action effectively unites and inspires a diverse audience.

- Key Points:

- Inclusive Language: Obama frequently uses "we" and "us" to foster a sense of unity among Americans.
- Historical References: He references past leaders and pivotal moments in American history, framing his presidency within a lineage of progress.
- Call to Action: The speech ends with a strong call to action, motivating citizens to contribute to a better future.

## 3. Analyzing Susan B. Anthony's Speech on Women's Rights

Susan B. Anthony's speech advocating for women's rights serves as a rich subject for rhetorical analysis.

- Thesis Statement: The analysis highlights how Anthony employs logical arguments, emotional appeals, and ethical considerations to advocate for women's suffrage.
- Key Points:
  - Logical Arguments: Anthony presents logical reasons why women should have the right to vote, emphasizing equality and justice.
  - Emotional Appeals: She shares personal anecdotes to evoke sympathy and connect with her audience on an emotional level.
  - Ethical Considerations: By framing her argument within the context of moral and ethical rights, she bolsters her case for justice.

## **Components of a Rhetorical Analysis Essay**

When writing a rhetorical analysis essay, consider the following components:

### **1. Introduction**

- Begin with a hook that captures the reader's attention.
- Provide background information on the text or speech being analyzed.
- End with a clear thesis statement that outlines the main argument of your analysis.

### **2. Summary of the Text**

- Offer a brief summary of the text or speech to provide context for your analysis.
- Highlight the main points and arguments presented by the author.

### **3. Analysis of Rhetorical Strategies**

- Examine the rhetorical strategies employed by the author, such as:
- Ethos: Discuss how the author establishes credibility.
- Pathos: Analyze the emotional appeals used and their effectiveness.
- Logos: Evaluate the logical arguments presented.
- Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

### **4. Conclusion**

- Summarize your findings and restate the significance of the rhetorical strategies analyzed.
- Reflect on the overall effectiveness of the text in achieving its purpose.

## **Tips for Writing a Rhetorical Analysis Essay**

To craft a compelling rhetorical analysis essay, consider the following tips:

### **1. Read the Text Thoroughly**

- Before writing, ensure you have a comprehensive understanding of the text. Take notes on key points and rhetorical strategies.

### **2. Identify the Audience**

- Consider who the intended audience is and how the author tailors their message to resonate with that specific group.

### **3. Use Direct Quotes**

- Incorporate direct quotes from the text to support your analysis. This adds credibility to your argument.

### **4. Stay Objective**

- While analyzing the text, maintain an objective stance. Focus on the effectiveness of the rhetorical strategies rather than personal opinions.

### **5. Revise and Edit**

- After completing your draft, revise for clarity and coherence. Ensure that your analysis flows logically and that your arguments are well-supported.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, examples of rhetorical analysis essays reveal the intricate ways in which authors communicate their messages and persuade their audiences. By dissecting the elements of rhetoric—ethos, pathos, and logos—we gain valuable insights into the effectiveness of various texts. Whether analyzing iconic speeches like those of Martin Luther King Jr. or modern political addresses, mastering rhetorical analysis not only enhances our understanding of persuasive communication but also sharpens our critical thinking skills. As you embark on writing your own rhetorical analysis, remember to focus on the strategies employed and how they contribute to the overarching message.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is a rhetorical analysis essay?**

A rhetorical analysis essay examines how an author uses rhetorical strategies and techniques to persuade or inform their audience. It analyzes the effectiveness of the author's choices in terms of ethos, pathos, and logos.

## **Can you provide an example of a text suitable for a rhetorical analysis essay?**

A great example for a rhetorical analysis essay is Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech. It employs powerful imagery, emotional appeals, and ethical arguments to persuade its audience regarding civil rights.

## **What are some common rhetorical strategies to analyze in an essay?**

Common rhetorical strategies to analyze include ethos (credibility), pathos (emotional appeal), logos (logical argument), diction (word choice), syntax (sentence structure), and imagery. Each plays a crucial role in how the message is conveyed.

## **How do you structure a rhetorical analysis essay?**

A rhetorical analysis essay typically includes an introduction that presents the text and its context, a thesis statement outlining the main argument, body paragraphs analyzing specific rhetorical strategies, and a conclusion that summarizes the findings and discusses the overall effectiveness.

## **What makes a rhetorical analysis essay compelling?**

A compelling rhetorical analysis essay clearly articulates the author's purpose, effectively analyzes the rhetorical strategies used, and provides specific examples from the text to support the claims. A strong thesis and coherent organization also contribute to its persuasiveness.

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