Name _____

English 12 Summer Homework

Rhetoric Scavenger Hunt

What is this assignment?

"Rhetoric" is anything that is designed to persuade. It's often in written form – like a newspaper opinion article or a speech. For this project, however, you're not going to focus on these forms of writing. You're going to focus on images, videos, and songs. Here's how it will work.

1. You'll collect a piece of rhetoric from the real world.
2. You'll summarize what you see or hear.
3. You'll analyze the methods/techniques that the rhetoric uses to persuade its audience.
4. You'll do this for a total of 8 times.
5. You'll turn it in on your first day of English 12.
6. I will not accept late submissions. If you are in class on day one and don't have the assignment with you, that's a zero. I don't want you to get backed up on work at the start of the year, so I'm not going to let you do summer work once the semester has started.
7. I'll grade it as a Major Assessment.

FAQ

Q: What sort of "rhetoric" can I choose?

A: Be creative! The only requirement is that it's something created in order to persuade an audience to do something or believe something. It's anything with a message or an argument or a sales pitch. It's "This Is America" by Childish Gambino. It's an anti-drunk driving poster on a bus stop. It's a video posted by Black Lives Matter about police violence. It's a clever slogan at the end of a commercial on TV.

Q: How do I "collect" the rhetoric?

A: Depends on what it is, but the general rule is that I should be able to see it. If it's a photo you took on your phone, text it to me at 617-996-1482 (be sure to tell me who you are and what its title is). If it's a YouTube video, write down the web address so I can look it up. If it's a song, I'll just find it on Spotify, but tell me the title of the song and the artist. If it's a magazine advertisement, cut it out and bring it in with you. Use your best judgement about how to get the rhetoric to me by the first day of school.

Q: What should my summaries and analyses look like? How long do they have to be?

A: Follow the example on the reverse. I'm grading this for completion and thoughtfulness. If you have eight analyses of approximately the same length as the model on the back, that's good. If your analyses are sophisticated, detailed, and perceptive, that's great. In other words, try to be smart in your analysis. Say something interesting, or funny, or provocative.

Example

Title: "Moment of Joy" by Jack Hunter. Cover of *The New Yorker* magazine, July 8th & 15th, 2013

Description of the Rhetoric: In this drawing, the familiar Sesame Street characters Burt and Ernie are sitting together watching TV. On the TV appears to be a picture of the Supreme Court: nine people dressed in black robes. The picture is drawn so that the viewer is looking at Burt and Ernie from behind. We see Ernie's head resting on Burt's shoulder, and Burt's arm around Ernie. There's not much color in the drawing – just enough to see the red and blue of Ernie's shirt and the yellow of Burt's skin. It looks like they're sitting in the dark, bathed only in the light of the TV. It's an intimate moment.

Analysis of the Rhetoric: The context of this drawing is important to understand its message. At the time that this magazine issue came out, the US Supreme Court had just struck down a law banning gay marriage. Therefore, the picture of the nine justices on the TV screen is a clear reference to that legal decision. How do Burt and Ernie fit into that? Based on their close, loving posture on the couch, the suggestion seems to be that they are gay, and happily watching a discriminatory law get struck down. So what is the message here? What is the artist trying to persuade me of? I think the clue here is the selection of Burt and Ernie in the first place. These Sesame Street characters are some of the most well-loved, delightful Muppets that were ever created. They're goofy and funny and nice (even if Burt is grumpy!) and they're a huge part of my childhood. In other words, they are symbols for something "good." The fact that <u>they</u> are the ones shown celebrating the Supreme Court ruling in such a loving way – that's my clue that the artist is trying to say that we should all support that ruling. In other words, the artist is trying to say that gay marriage is good, and that laws prohibiting it should be struck down.

Rhetoric #1

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Description of the Rhetoric: _____

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Analysis of the Rhetoric:

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Rhetoric #2

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Description of the Rhetoric: _____

Analysis of the Rhetoric:

Rhetoric #3

Title: _____

Description of the Rhetoric: _____

Analysis of the Rhetoric:

Rhetoric #4

Title: _____

Description of the Rhetoric: _____

Analysis of the Rhetoric:

Rhetoric #5

Title: _____

Description of the Rhetoric: _____

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Rhetoric #6

Title: _____

Description of the Rhetoric: _____

Analysis of the Rhetoric:

Rhetoric #7

Title: _____

Description of the Rhetoric: _____

Analysis of the Rhetoric:

Rhetoric #8

Title: _____

Description of the Rhetoric: _____

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Analysis of the Rhetoric:

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AP Students Only: Additional Assignment

Instructions: Learn the definitions of each of the attached 60 words, and be ready for a comprehensive quiz on day one of the class.

Quizlet AP English Summer Vocabulary List

Study online at quizlet.com/_4cdbt5

1. **abet** — to assist or encourage, especially in wrongdoing
2. **absolve** — to clear from blame, responsibility, or guilt
3. **concur** — to agree
4. **condescend** — to talk down to
5. **corroborate** — to provide supporting evidence
6. **digress** — to stray from the main subject
7. **disavow** — to deny responsibility for or connection with
8. **disparage** — to degrade, to speak of someone or something in a derogatory manner
9. **eradicate** — to wipe out; to destroy
10. **expound** — to explain in detail
11. **acerbic** — harsh and biting in tone
12. **aloof** — not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant
13. **benevolent** — friendly, helpful
14. **bombastic** — pompous in speech and manner
15. **candid** — outspoken; blunt
16. **capricious** — changing one's mind quickly and often
17. **caustic** — biting in wit
18. **churlish** — lacking politeness or good manners; lacking sensitivity; difficult to work with or deal with; rude
19. **colloquial** — pertaining to common everyday speech; conversational
20. **contrite** — extremely apologetic, remorseful, repentant
21. **convoluted** — intricate and complicated
22. **cynical** — believing the worst of human nature and motives
23. **deferential** — showing respect; humble
24. **dejected** — sad; in low spirits; depressed; downcast
25. **detached** — aloof; separate and objective
26. **devious** — sneaky
27. **didactic** — instructive (especially excessively)
28. **dispassionate** — impartial; calm, free from emotion
29. **edifying** — providing moral or intellectual instruction
30. **effusive** — showing excessive emotion; overflowing
31. **embittered** — made bitter, cynical
32. **enigmatic** — mysterious, inexplicable, puzzling
33. **erudite** — scholarly
34. **esoteric** — intended for or understood by only a small group
35. **euphemistic** — substituting a mild, indirect, or vague term for one considered harsh, blunt, or offensive
36. **facetious** — humorous, not meant seriously
37. **fastidious** — giving and careful attention to detail
38. **feigned** — pretended
39. **glib** — slick, smooth-talking, impressive but shallow
40. **grave** — very serious
41. **grotesque** — unnatural, distorted; bizarre
42. **haphazard** — marked by lack of plan, order, or direction
43. **haughty** — arrogant, excessively proud and vain
44. **homespun** — domestic; made at home
45. **idiomatic** — peculiar to a particular language
46. **impervious** — incapable of being affected
47. **incendiary** — inflaming; provoking heat or anger
48. **incensed** — enraged
49. **incredulous** — not believing
50. **indignant** — angered at something unjust or wrong
51. **inflammatory** — causing excitement or anger
52. **innocuous** — harmless
53. **insidious** — intended to deceive or entrap; sly, treacherous
54. **insipid** — boring and stupid
55. **insolent** — boldly rude or disrespectful
56. **intrepid** — brave
57. **intuitive** — knowing something by instinct
58. **irate** — furious
59. **irked** — annoyed
60. **irreverent** — disrespectful