

Essay 2: Significance Paper (200 pts.)

Digital copy due by 12pm/noon on Thursday, 10/19. Please note the late paper policy on the syllabus.

Three-Part Rhetorical Criticism Writing Assignment

In this course, you will assume the role of a rhetorical critic, which involves the following steps:

- Find an artifact that engages some problem or possibility of public significance.
- Pose a research question.
- **Examine the context shaping your case study, including its social, historical, and/or political significance.**
- **Choose a rhetorical perspective to inform your analysis and interpretation.**
- Analyze the selected artifact(s).
- Evaluate your case study and artifact's role in enabling and/or constraining thriving communities and public discourse committed to ethical civic engagement.

This Significance Paper engages the third and fourth bolded points above and marks the second step toward generating a piece of polished rhetorical criticism. This 5-6-page paper has two parts: The first portion describes the context shaping your text in 2-3 pages to argue why it is historically, socially, and/or politically significant. The second portion describes a rhetorical perspective/framework in 2-3 pages to demonstrate the rhetorical significance of your case study.

Evaluation Criteria

This paper will be graded based on the quality of engagement with the two major essay components mentioned above, as they relate to your case study. The main motivation for assigning this paper is to help you examine and understand why a rhetorical perspective matters for studying your artifact(s) and what such a perspective might offer critiques of public discourse. Your paper will be graded on how well it achieves this purpose. (Consult general essay rubric on WISE.)

Written Assignment Checklist (from syllabus)

- ☐ Include your name, date, a title, numbered pages, and use 12-pt, Times New Roman (or similar), double-spaced font.
- ☐ Cite sources using one citation style consistently. Include a references page at the end of your paper.
- ☐ Upload to the appropriate assignment folder in WISE by **noon on the due date**. All assignments should be saved in a word document file (.doc, .docx, or .rtf). Please save the file as your last name and the paper assignment name (e.g., Davis_Significance Paper).

OUTLINE

- Introduction (include a clever, relevant title)
 - Opening material
 - Thesis statement
 - Argument about why what you are studying matters
 - Preview
 - Two parts of essay
 - Political, social, and/or historical significance of artifact(s)
 - Perspective/theoretical orientation
 - Part I (Remixes portions of Essay 1/case-study proposal)
 - Remixed description
 - Additional context to show political, historical, and/or social significance of artifact(s)
 - Discuss audience(s) and circulation of artifact(s)
- [Clear transition to Part II; consider a subtitle/heading related to your rhetorical perspective]
- Part II (Introduces new content, except for research question)
 - State research question (same or revised version from Essay 1, based on feedback)
 - Describe selected perspective/theoretical orientation
 - Summarize what others have written about this perspective, selecting the most important and relevant arguments/findings (3-4 scholarly articles); then, discuss at what point/around what interest or issue you are joining the conversation
 - Conclusion
 - Summarize main argument and essay components
 - Offer a strong concluding statement
 - Works Cited/References page with minimum of eight sources