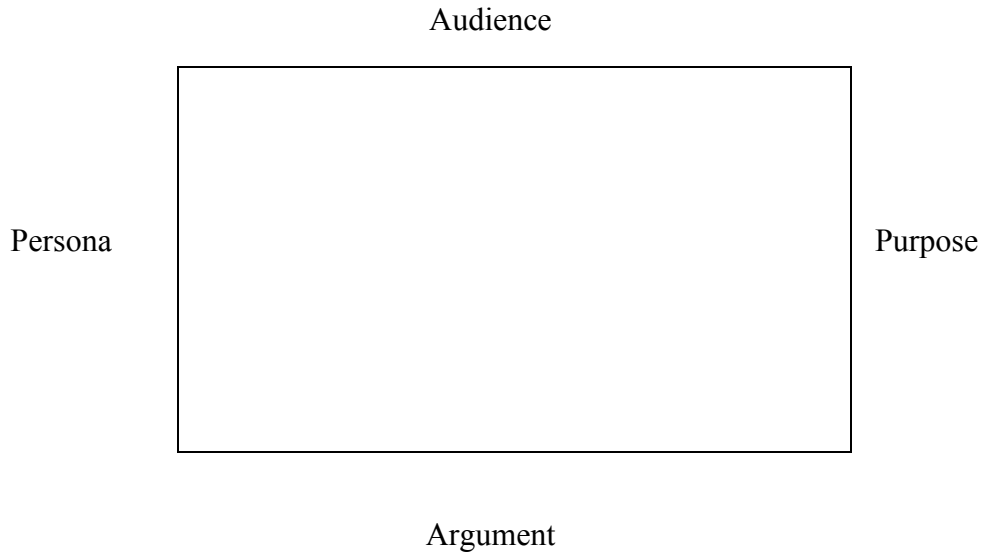


The Rhetorical Box



You don't have to write your answers in a literal box, but it may help you remember what you're looking for as you read.

As we go through the Rationalism literary period, you will regularly articulate in complete sentences what the Purpose, Argument, Persona, and who the intended Audience are of the work you are analyzing.

Purpose: the reason the author wrote the work.

Ask yourself “why did the author write this? What message was sent?”

Argument: what the author wants the readers to believe and understand after reading the work; it is developed with evidence, reasoning, etc.

Ask yourself “what is the author arguing and how is he/she doing it?”

Persona: the “voice” or speaker of the work, who is designed a specific way for a specific reason.

Ask yourself “what are the characteristics of the speaker and why did the author choose to have them be the persona of the work?”

Audience: who the work was designed to target.

Ask yourself “who is this directed toward? Who is the author hoping to educate or speak to?”