

Rhetorical Analysis Checklist

INTRODUCTION

- ☐ Establishes the context and background of the text you are analyzing
- ☐ Includes a clear thesis statement focusing on how individual strategies work (or don't) to achieve the text's purpose and to engage the text's audience

ARGUMENT SUPPORT

- ☐ Focuses on 2 or 3 rhetorical strategies used to carry out the author's goals
- ☐ Analyzes rather than summarize the text
- ☐ Argues how each strategy is used and whether or not it's used effectively to convey the author's purpose and connect with the audience
- ☐ Provides examples through quoting or paraphrasing to support your claims, including textual context and explanation

ARGUMENT STRUCTURE

- ☐ Includes focused paragraphs using topic sentences
- ☐ Uses transitions to guide the reader, connect topics, and unify the argument

INTEGRATING SOURCES

- ☐ Thoroughly introduces any source used (title, author)
- ☐ Uses signal phrases to indicate when material comes from source
- ☐ Cites sources in-text and in Works Cited
- ☐ Uses your own words and sentence structure when paraphrasing
- ☐ When using source's words, use quotation marks

WRITING STYLE

- ☐ Uses varied sentence structures and word choices
- ☐ Avoids errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling

PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE & FORMATTING

- ☐ Properly formats the document in MLA style (Header, Heading, spacing, title)
- ☐ Properly formats in-text citations in MLA style
- ☐ Properly formats the Works Cited page in MLA style (complete, correct entries; hanging indent)