

Exploring America's Voices: The Connection Between Past, Present, and Future

Rhetorical Analysis Process Essay

“Black people have seen the worst of America, yet, somehow, we still believe in its best.”

—Nikole Hannah-Jones

The New York Times Magazine

The texts you have read in the past few weeks have all shared a common goal: to share the story of America from various perspectives. These authors have aimed to demonstrate the ongoing impacts of slavery, racism, economic disparity, and other injustices on today's world. In this essay, you will choose three texts—an essay, a photo essay, and a podcast—and write about how their authors achieved this goal within their works. You will consider the choices they made and describe how those choices supported their purposes. In this essay, you are not writing about

whether you agree with the authors. Rather, you are analyzing how their writing is successful.

These are the steps you will take:

1. Choose your three texts. They can be texts you have worked with beforehand or a text another group has worked with. You must choose a text in each of the three modes—an essay, a photo essay, and a podcast.
2. Start coming up with a thesis statement. You may use the below template if you would like:
 - a. These three authors primarily aim to _____ . They successfully achieve this goal (or these goals) via various persuasive and effective rhetorical choices such as _____ .
 - b. Then, come up with mini thesis statements for each text (what are their more specific purposes and choices?)
3. Then, review the essay outline. If you want to fill out an outline first, please do so! Complete whatever it is you like to do for prewriting/brainstorming. (I will also begin individual conferences with you all about your thesis statements at this point).
4. Then, start writing your first draft!
5. Once your first draft is written, the next steps will be peer editing, revising, and submitting the final draft.

“
a word after
a word after
a word is
power.”

”

Margaret Atwood



Essay Pacing Guide:

Day one: Choose your texts, write a thesis statement, and start the pre-writing process. Also write your “mini thesis statements” for each text.

Day two: Thesis conferences (overall and mini thesis statements); work on prewriting, start on first draft

Day three: Finish intro, start body one

Day four: Finish body one, start body two

Day five: Finish body two, start body three

Day six: Finish body three, write conclusion

Day seven: Peer editing; then make revisions on your own time and submit.