**Rhetorical Situation**

“Analysis” means to look closely at something, to break it down into small parts to understand it better. A kid taking a clock apart is analyzing that clock to see how it works: that’s a physical version of analysis. For this project you’ll analyze three different news articles on the same basic topic, working to understand how each one works. Look closely to understand how each of the articles functions and what effects each has on different audiences.

Look carefully and deeply into each textto analyze **rhetorical elements** including each author’s *ethos*, how each author usesevidence, and other rhetorical strategies. Determine if an author relies on any logical fallacies.Describe the **effects**of those elementsand provide **evidence from the text** so that your audience can understand your interpretation of how those elements work (or, in some cases, why they don’t).

*Note:* This assignment does not ask you to weigh in with your opinion on the *topic.* Instead, your task is to analyze how each author frames and writes about the topic.

**Tasks**

* Choose **three news articles** from within the last year, each from a different perspective.
* Ensure that each article you select comes from a source that represents a **different** category as described here: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/> (left, left-center, least biased, right-center, right, conspiracy/pseudoscience, and satire).
* Bring printouts of each article to class to get them approved and to brainstorm in groups.
* Read, re-read, annotate, re-read, take notes, make lists, cluster, look for patterns…
* Decide ona few specific elements to focus your analysis on in addition to *ethos* and evidence (detailand clarity about a few is stronger than a surface analysis of many).
* Keep track of what evidence in each article supports your claims about the effects of various rhetorical elements.
* Be sure to give your audience context for each article. Make it easy for readers to situate each text and understand your analysis of how this text works.
* Create an original title for your rhetorical analysis.

**Length and Format**

* 1500-2000 words (approximately 5-7 double-spaced pages). Include the word count.
* MLA or APA format; 11- or 12-point font (your choice); no breaks between paragraphs.

**Due Dates**

* Mini-workshop to confirm perspectives of each article, etc.: Feb 26th, 2018
* In-class Workshop (Bring two paper copies!): Mar 12th, 2018
* Your Peer Conference Day/Date/Time: Mar 5th, 7th, 8th
* Revised Submission Draft: Mar 14th, 2018

**Enhancing Your Understanding**

Re-read and annotate this assignment. Then write down your initial ideas and tentative timeline.

**Resources**

* *Everyone’s an Author*: Chapters 13, “Writing Analytically”;17, “Analyzing and Constructing Arguments”; 4, “Meeting the Demands of Academic Writing”; 29, “What’s Your Style?”; 31, “How to Write Good Sentences”; 3, “Reading Rhetorically”
* *Can I Use I?*: “How Is College Writing Different?”; “How Do I Write a Good Intro?”; “How Can I Make My Paper Flow?”
* https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/