

AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION RHETORICAL PRÉCIS COLUMNIST ASSIGNMENT – FALL 2015

This assignment requires you to read and analyze columns by a single columnist over ten (10) weeks. A list of nationally syndicated columnists from various newspapers and of various ideological leanings is provided below. **Select a column within the preceding two weeks of each due date.** Make sure you are using a full-length column and not just a blog entry by the columnist. If you are not sure, ask.

The focus of your reading should be the writer's rhetorical style: argumentative appeals and rhetorical strategies used by the columnist to persuade his/her audience. By reading four or five columns, you can see how the writer applies some of the same strategies and techniques to different topics and adapts his/her appeals to his/her subject matter and purpose.

You will complete and submit a rhetorical précis for five of the columns – one every other week. **You must use the form provided for the rhetorical précis.**

Due dates: 1. Sept. 11; 2. Sept. 25; 3. Oct. 9; 4. Oct. 23; 5. Nov. 6

You must attach annotated copies of each column along with your rhetorical précis. The evaluation checklist for this assignment is on the back of this page.

Columnists

New York Times

Charles Blow, David Brooks, Frank Bruni, Roger Cohen, Gail Collins, Ross Douthat, Maureen Dowd, Thomas Friedman, Nicholas Kristof, Paul Krugman, Joe Nocera

The Washington Post

Marc Thiessen, Richard Cohen, E.J. Dionne, Michael Gerson, David Ignatius, Charles Krauthammer, Ruth Marcus, Eugene Robinson, Robert Samuelson, Dana Milbank, George Will, Fareed Zakaria, Kathleen Parker, Katrina vandenHeuvel

Miami Herald

Carl Hiaasen, Leonard Pitts, Jr., Glenn Garvin

The Boston Globe

Jeff Jacoby, Joanna Weiss, Derrick Jackson, Scot Lehigh, Joan Vennochi

If you select a columnist whose name does not appear on this list, you must get teacher approval first.

NAME _____

First Sentence:

1. _____ author's full name
2. _____ title of work, in quotation marks; genre identified
3. _____ publication, in italics , and publication date in parentheses
4. _____ rhetorically accurate and effective verb _____
5. _____ *that* clause containing an appropriate statement of author's claim (this may include a direct quote or paraphrasing) – **WHAT**
6. _____ accurate identification of the author's claim/purpose

Second Sentence:

7. _____ identification of first argument appeal (*logos, pathos, ethos*) the author uses to develop his/her claim
8. _____ explanation (**with quote included**) of first argument appeal (*logos, pathos, ethos*) the author uses to support his/her claim – **HOW**
9. _____ identification second argument appeal (*logos, pathos, ethos*) the author uses to develop his/her claim
10. _____ explanation (**with quote included**) of second argument appeal (*logos, pathos, ethos*) the author uses to support his/her claim – **HOW**
11. _____ identification of at least one additional rhetorical technique (other than argument appeals) the author uses to develop his/her claim
12. _____ explanation (**with quote included**) of the rhetorical technique the author uses to support his/her claim – **HOW**

Third Sentence:

13. _____ accurate statement of author's subject - **FOCUS**
14. _____ *in order to* phrase
15. _____ (**CALL TO ACTION**); in other words, what does he/she want the reader to do?

Fourth Sentence:

16. _____ accurate, specific description of the intended audience (not "everyone")
17. _____ appropriate word to describe author's tone;

Bibliography/Writing/Column Annotation:

18. _____ author's name (last name comma first name), appropriately punctuated article and publication titles, followed by appropriately written date, followed by the section and page number where column appeared, the word *Web* followed by a period and then the date column was accessed in correct format. **MLA**
19. _____ correct formatting of entry, including proper indention, capitalization, and punctuation between entries and at end **and** correct grammar and mechanics throughout précis (agreement, spelling, punctuation, sentence construction, etc.) and appropriate and effective word usage
20. _____ column annotation includes notes on the author's **claim** and **at least 3 specific supporting strategies and** column annotation includes meanings of unfamiliar words/allusions and DIDLS that convey author's tone

TOTAL SCORE _____/20

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