**Assignment #2: Analyze**

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate how well you can analyze the way a writer communicates their argument(s) to their audience given their context and purpose. Specifically, you’ll want to identify and discuss the strategies that the writer uses to persuade the audience and discuss how effective those strategies are by including evidence from the text. After you analyze the text, you will also connect the text to its context. **The final draft of this assignment should be 1000-1200 words**.

This is not a summary assignment, though it can be helpful to include a very brief summary of the text you chose at the start of your essay so that your readers know what you’re talking about. Instead, you will analyze both the context (contextual analysis) and the content of the text (textual analysis). This analysis will inform your thesis about how the author works to achieve their purpose(s) and how effectively they do so.

**To be considered complete, you final draft should include:**

* **Your revised analysis essay of around 1000-1200 words**
* **Your works cited or references page**
* **Your cover letter, which includes a discussion of your revisions**

**Steps for Assignment #2:**

1. With the help of your instructor, choose a text to analyze.
2. Read and annotate the text to highlight the argument. Here are some questions to consider:
   1. What is the main idea of the text? How do you know?
   2. What is the writer’s purpose for writing?
   3. What kinds of evidence does the author use? Is that evidence effective? For whom?
   4. Does the author include counterarguments or evidence for an argument other than their own? Why do you think they do or do not do so?
   5. How does the author organize the text? Why do you think the author chose that organization?
   6. What rhetorical strategies does the writer use to make the text appealing to readers?
   7. Do you observe a pattern of strategies the writer uses? Can you support this observation with evidence from the text? (Possible thesis statement here!)
3. Take notes on the rhetorical situation (including stance, audience, and purpose) and context. Here are some questions to consider:
   1. Where was this text published?
   2. What other things appeared in that venue?
   3. When was the text published?
   4. What event or events was the text responding to?
   5. Who was the audience?
   6. What is the author’s purpose for writing?
   7. How is the text related to or responsive to the context? Are the rhetorical strategies used the most appropriate for this context?
4. Outline or otherwise organize the information you wish to include in analysis.
5. Draft your analysis essay.
6. Share your analysis essay for feedback.
7. Revise your analysis essay.
8. Draft your cover letter.
9. Submit your final draft.

**Format & Layout**

[Insert how you want students to organize their writing and format their paper. As the instructor, you can add more specificity to the prompt, so long as you do not change the scope or rigor of the assignment.]

Sample General Outline

* Introduction with Thesis
* Contextual Analysis (multiple paragraphs)
* Textual Analysis (multiple paragraphs)
* Conclusion

Your paper should be about **1000-1200 words** in length and should include in-text citations where you paraphrase or quote directly from the article and a Works Cited or Reference page at the end of the paper. 

**Due Dates**

Proposal Draft: **[DATE]**

First Draft**: [DATE]**

Peer Review**: [DATE]**

Final Draft: **[DATE]**

**Final Submission Checklist**

* I have included a cover letter as the first page of my assignment where I summarize and explain what revisions I made to my draft.
* I have included a brief summary of the text, but it is not my paper’s focus.
* I have discussed the writer's rhetorical strategies in the text.
* I have discussed the context of the text.
* I have included a thesis statement that captures the focus of my paper.
* I have provided evidence to support my thesis statement.
* I have included in-text citations and a Works Cited/Reference list.
* I have formatted my paper [as my instructor has described.]
* I have saved the document as a .pdf or .docx file for submission.