Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_ 10 B

***To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Atticus’s Closing Argument**

**Rhetorical Analysis Essay**

What is a rhetorical analysis?

A **rhetorical analysis** is an essay that breaks a work into parts and then explains how the parts work together to create a certain effect—whether to persuade, entertain or inform. We are specifically going to look at an argument meant to persuade. A rhetorical analysis analyzes ***how*** an author argues rather than ***what*** an author argues. It focuses on what we call the “rhetorical” features of a text—the author’s situation, purpose for writing, intended audience, kinds of claims, and types of evidence—to show how the argument tries to persuade the reader.

Focus for the essay

You will be creating a rhetorical analysis of Atticus’s closing argument from the trial of Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. You will examine how Atticus proves his claim by using at least two of the rhetorical strategies (ethos, pathos, logos). You will also note any other techniques Atticus may have used to discuss how the text argues his point.

Rhetorical Analysis Strategy

One way to rhetorically analyze a text is to consider SMELL.

**S.M.E.L.L. – Evaluating argumentation and persuasion (with rhetorical appeals)**

**S**ender/receiver relationship: Who is the speaker? Who is the audience? What is the tone directed   
from one to the other?

**M**essage: What is the context and claim?

**E**vidence: What kind of evidence is given and to what extent?

**L**ogic: What is the quality of the reasoning? What types of appeals are being used?

**L**anguage: What stylistic and rhetorical devices are being employed? (Literary devices, tone words, etc.)

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Answering these questions will help you know what to focus on and pull out from Atticus’s closing argument to help complete your analysis. Use the organizer in the packet to help you brainstorm and plan the evidence you will need in your essay. The outline will also help you to write your draft for submission for a grade.

This essay is due **Friday, April 1st by 11:59 PM!**

Must be shared using Google Docs (brosmi@myfitz.net)

Must be written in MLA format (Header, Heading, Citations, Works Cited Page)

Use class time effectively to help you complete your essay.

**SMELL Brainstorm**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Aspect** | **Notes/Evidence from the text** |
| **S**ender/receiver relationship:   * Who is the speaker? * Who is the audience? * What is the tone directed  from one to the other? |  |
| **M**essage:   * What is the context and claim? (What is Atticus trying to prove in his argument) |  |
| **E**vidence:   * What kind of evidence is given * To what extent? |  |
| **L**ogic:   * What is the quality of the reasoning? * What types of rhetorical strategies are being used? * Give two strategies and an example of each * Explain the strategy in your own words | Strategy #1:  Quote from the text:  Analysis of Quote (What does it mean? What does it prove? Why is it important?) |
| **L**ogic:   * What is the quality of the reasoning? * What types of rhetorical strategies are being used? * Give two strategies and an example of each * Explain the strategy in your own words | Strategy #2:  Quote from the text:  Analysis of Quote (What does it mean? What does it prove? Why is it important?) |
| **L**anguage:   * What stylistic and rhetorical devices are being employed? (rhetorical questions, similes, metaphors, parallel structure, etc.) | Examples:  Analysis: |

**Paper Outline**

1. Introduction
   1. Introduction of Source (title and author of book)
   2. Introduction of the Argument (consider the **S**ender/receiver to discuss this)
   3. Explain the Claim (look at **M**essage)
   4. Thesis (state how Atticus makes his argument – what rhetorical strategies does he use in order to do so)
2. Body Paragraph #1 (Look at **L**ogic)
   1. State the rhetorical strategy Atticus uses (ethos, pathos, logos)
   2. Introduce the Quote
   3. Write the quote using quotations and citation (Lee page number)
   4. Analysis - (What does it mean? What does it prove? Why is it important?)
3. Body Paragraph #2 (Look at **L**ogic)
   1. State the second rhetorical strategy Atticus uses (ethos, pathos, logos)
   2. Introduce the Quote
   3. Write the quote using quotations and citation (Lee page number)
   4. Analysis - (What does it mean? What does it prove? Why is it important?)
4. Body Paragraph #3 (Look at **L**anguage)
   1. State the second device/technique Atticus uses
   2. Introduce the Quote
   3. Write the quote using quotations and citation (Lee page number)
   4. Analysis - (What does it mean? What does it prove? Why is it important?)
5. Conclusion
   1. State if Atticus makes an effective argument or not using his strategies
   2. Summarize his main points of evidence
   3. Why is this argument important?

\*Please Note: You may use your notes from our discussion of the argument in class; however, you will need to find the page numbers in the book in order to cite the quotes you use. You will find Atticus’s closing argument on pages 271-275 in the novel