

Rhetorical exercises, revisited

Based on evaluations and other factors, I thought everyone would benefit from more detailed instructions for the remaining rhetorical exercises. I have also rescheduled and slightly restructured several exercises to meet the needs of our new schedule.

RX	Assignment
G Week 9 Oct 22	Select a letter to the editor from the <i>Western Courier</i> or another newspaper. Create a decomposed and recomposed outline of it; there's a handout describing this process on the course web site. Turn in both "current" and "new" outlines. (This might work better if you pick a long letter which isn't organized well, or which rambles a bit.)
H Week 10 Oct 27	Revise three paragraphs of your open letter or persuasive talk to emulate the style of Hunter S. Thompson. See the course web site for links to several of his writings (use Google or visit the library to find more). How does this revision affect your argument? Also, revise three paragraphs of a <i>Western Courier</i> news story (not a feature or opinion story) to add as many rhetorical figures as possible. How does this affect the article? Turn in the original with your rewritten selection and comments.
I Week 11 Nov 3	Make a list of 15 things (events, people, symbols, etc.) from "cultural memory" (see <i>ARCS</i> 322-3) which might be relevant to your project. Think on a local or wide scope. Indicate whether each item is extremely, somewhat, or only possibly relevant. Explain why these things are (possibly) relevant for your writing.
J Week 12 Nov 10	Complete Quiz #2, <i>NDB</i> 85, but use an advertisement from the <i>Western Courier</i> , instead of the one Williams supplies. You can use cut-and-paste, tracing, or computer editing to recast the advertisement. Turn in the original as well as the redesigned ad (make a copy, or take extra copies of the <i>Courier</i> if needed).
K Week 13 Nov 17	Complete three examples of the "Combining contrasting type" exercise described on <i>NDB</i> 174. Use whatever method pleases you—computer, tracing, etc.
L Week 14 Dec 1	Rhetorical microcosm: as quickly as possible, write out a complete (but not necessarily detailed) rhetorical evaluation of an issue, working through all the parts of the techniques we learned this semester (invention, from <i>kairos</i> to the topics, and considering the other canons as well). There's a handout on this on the course web site. Topic: the relevance of training in classical rhetoric for modern writers.

Tips & guidelines

- ✓ Each exercise is worth 15 points; all points are counted toward your grade.
- ✓ When you complete the assignment, think "How can this help me learn the material?" and shape your writing accordingly.
- ✓ Please use a 2 inch margin on either the right or left side, so I can easily add commentary. If your assignment runs more than one page, staple or paper-clip it.
- ✓ If I've asked you to write based on an advertisement or other content, attach a copy.
- ✓ Strive for detail, not polish; don't worry about being grammatically correct and pretty and all that. But do worry about complete, detailed, copious content.