



ENGL 1013 Essay Assignment 3: Critique

The critique requires you to explain (1) how effectively an author uses rhetorical strategies and (2) whether you agree or disagree with the author's argument. Examples of **rhetorical strategies** are persuasive appeals (logos, ethos, pathos), logical fallacies, diction (word choice), and tone.

The critique has four sections: introduction, assessment component, response component, and conclusion.

Unlike the first two essay assignments in Composition I, the critique requires you to write subjectively rather than objectively. In subjective writing, you express your own opinions and judgments.

Introduction:

Your introduction should provide readers with the name of the source text, the author, and his/her thesis statement. The introduction should also provide an essay map, which gives a layout of your essay.

1. Combine your paraphrase of the source text's thesis with the author's name and the text's title.

Example: *In "Waiting on Salvation," Richard Smith argues that the U.S. should give more aid to countries in the Middle East.*

2. Write a thesis statement, which reflects your overall judgment of the argument.

Example: *Smith produces a strong argument, but his points fail to convince me.*

3. Write your essay map, which lists the rhetorical strategies you will discuss in the assessment.

Example: *Smith uses a strong emotional appeal when he discusses the plight of war-torn countries, but he oversimplifies the solution to the problem.*

Body (Assessment Component):

Explain (1) how the author uses each rhetorical strategy listed in your essay map, (2) whether that strategy makes the author's argument stronger or weaker, and (3) why it does so. Important considerations:

1. Follow the order outlined in your essay map.
2. Use quotation and paraphrase to show examples of how the author uses each strategy.
3. Use transitions between paragraphs, ideas, and even sentences to improve readability.

Body (Response Component):

Explain to what extent you agree or disagree with the author's argument. Also, explain *why* you agree or disagree. Keep in mind you can agree with some aspects of the argument but disagree with others.

Conclusion:

Your conclusion addresses the "so what" question—why does your paper matter? What can we learn from critiquing this source text?