

Quarter Project #2: Independent Argument Analysis

Mr. Eble, AP Language & Composition

For this quarter project, you'll familiarize yourself with the content, arguments, and style of a syndicated columnist in Western media.

1. You must collect 5 articles/columns by the same author. Please provide a link on your blog post to the article.
 - For each article, spend a paragraph or so providing exigency, I.E. What is the context of the rhetoric?
 - Then, identify the author's thesis or main argument. This may be explicit or implicit.
 - Next, find the key proof for this argument in the article. Find two examples not exceeding four lines each. Explain what kind of proof / evidence the author provides. Explain why this evidence effectively supports the assertion and what strategies the author uses.
 - Analyze the author's style. Which mode(s) does the author use? What techniques make the work unique? How does the author convey his or her attitude? How does the author develop tone?
 - Finally, go to battle; show whether you agree, disagree, or would qualify the view. Support your own argument with evidence from the text and any other documented source (using an outside source is optional).
2. You'll also complete a Toulmin Method Analysis of **one** of the articles (see pages 125-131 of *The Language of Composition* and [The University of Richmond's Writing Center website for more details](#))
3. Then, you'll complete an overall style analysis for your author, writing a blog post in which you note trends in the author's style / voice. You should provide specific references to lines in the text, noting
 - Your author's use of schemes & tropes
 - An explanation of your author's **voice**, with examples
 - Any comparisons (or stark contrasts) with your own writing or another prominent writer's
4. Finally, you'll create a 10-question AP Language & Composition Multiple Choice Quiz (over at least one of the readings) using the question stems on page three.

Due Dates:

- Article Analysis #1: November 11th (A) / 12th (B)
- Article Analysis #2-5: November 26th
- Toulmin Analysis of One Article: December 6th
- Author Style Analysis: December 13th
- AP Multiple Choice Quiz (with answer key): December 18th

Point Values:

- Each Article analysis: 30 points (Total = 150 points)
- Toulmin Analysis: 50 points
- Author Style Analysis: 50 points
- AP Multiple Choice Quiz (with answer key): 5 points per question, 5 points per answer explained = 100 points

Total Points: 350 points

Columnists: While you don't have to choose from the list below, you should inform me who you'd like to choose if he/she is not on this list. We'll do an in-class draft over these columnists, and you may trade twice in class.

George Will for *The Washington Post* (washingtonpost.com—registration required but free)

Charles Krauthammer for *The Washington Post*

Harold Meyerson for *The Washington Post*

Ruth Marcus for *The Washington Post*

Joan Vennochi for *The Boston Globe*

Ellen Goodman for *The Boston Globe*

Derrick Z. Jackson for *The Boston Globe*

Carl Hiaasen for *The Miami Herald*

Robert Steinbeck for *The Miami Herald*

Leonard Pitts Jr. for *The Miami Herald*

Randy Schultz for *The Palm Beach Post*

Dan Moffett for *The Palm Beach Post*

Paul Krugman for *The New York Times*

David Brooks for *The New York Times*

Thomas Friedman for *The New York Times*

Frank Rich for *The New York Times*

Maureen Dowd for *The New York Times*

Peter Travers for *Rolling Stone*

Peter Schjeladahl for *The New Yorker*

David Denby for *The New Yorker*

Anthony Lane for *The New Yorker*

Chuck Klosterman for *Esquire* (esquire.com)

Frank DeFord for *National Public Radio / Sports Illustrated*

Rick Reilly for *ESPN*

Rhetorical Analysis / Close Reading: Multiple-Choice Stems From the AP Language and Composition Exam:

1. What is the author's attitude toward the subject?
2. The word _____ in context (line ____) is best interpreted to mean . . .
3. What does the phrase _____ mean?
4. The phrase _____ functions primarily as . . .
5. The word/phrase _____ in line ____ refers to which of the following?
6. How would you characterize the style of the passage?
7. The style of the passage as a whole is most accurately characterized as . . .
8. What is the main point of the passage?
9. Restate the phrase, _____.
10. Define the phrase, _____.
11. What does the speaker accomplish in this passage?
12. What is the speaker's purpose in writing this passage?
13. What is the speaker's purpose in lines _____.
14. The speaker's reference to _____ serves primarily to . . .
15. Lines ____ can be interpreted to mean . . .
16. In lines ____, the speaker employs which of the following rhetorical strategies?
17. In the sentence beginning _____, the speaker employs all of the following EXCEPT . . .
18. The type of argument employed by the speaker is most similar to which of the following?
19. The speaker describes _____ in an order best described as from the . . .
20. Why does the writer use the allusion to _____?
21. Which of the following best summarizes the main topic of the passage?
22. The attitude of the entire passage (or parts of the passage) is one of . . .
23. What is the tone of the passage?

24. How would you characterize the diction and style of the passage?
25. What is the speaker asserting in lines _____?
26. In relation to the passage as a whole, the statement in the first sentence presents . . . [syntax]
27. The second sentence (line ____) is unified by metaphorical references pertaining to . . .
28. The sentence _____ in lines ____ contains which of the following?
29. Describe the structure of the sentence in lines _____.
30. What contrast does the speaker develop in lines _____?
31. What effect is achieved by the speaker's using the phrases _____?
32. What dominant technique is the speaker using in lines _____?
33. In lines _____, _____ is a metaphorical way of saying _____.
34. What does the author achieve by juxtaposing _____ and _____?
35. What does the choice of words show about the speaker's beliefs?
36. Where is there a shift of tone in the passage?
37. The reason for the shift in tone is due to . . .
38. The tone of the passage shifts from one of _____ to one of _____.
39. The syntax in lines _____ serves to _____.
40. What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject?
41. What assumptions does the speaker make about the audience?
42. It can be inferred by the description of _____ that which of the following qualities are valued by the speaker?
43. How does the author seek to interest us in the first paragraph?
44. What method does the author use to develop the argument?
45. Line _____ is parallel to what other line in the passage?
46. What can you infer about the author's attitudes toward the subject?
47. What is the antecedent for _____?
48. What type of argument is the author using in this passage?
49. What pattern of exposition is the author using in this passage?
50. What is the atmosphere established in lines _____?
51. Why is the sentence in lines _____ coherent, despite its length?
52. In line _____, the use of _____ instead of _____ accomplishes what?
53. What is the function of _____ in the passage?
54. What is the subject of the sentence in lines _____?
55. The primary rhetorical function of lines _____ is to . . .
56. The main rhetorical strategy of the _____ paragraph is for the purpose of . . .
57. What does the author apparently believe about the subject?
58. What does the author believe we should do in response to this passage?
59. The author uses this (certain image) for the purpose of . . .
60. The principal contrast employed by the author in the passage/paragraph is between _____ and _____.
61. Why is the sentence in lines _____ remarkable?
62. The antecedent for _____ in the clause _____ is . . .
63. The pattern of exposition exemplified in the passage is best described as . . .
64. The point of view indicated in the phrase _____ in line _____ is that of . . .
65. The atmosphere established in the _____ sentence of paragraph _____ is mainly one of . . .
66. The function of the clauses introduced by _____ in lines _____ is to . . .
67. What is the function of paragraph _____ of line _____?
68. In the passage, the speaker makes all of the following assumptions about his/her readers EXCEPT
69. The diction in the passage is best described as
70. One prominent stylistic characteristic of the _____ paragraph is the use of _____