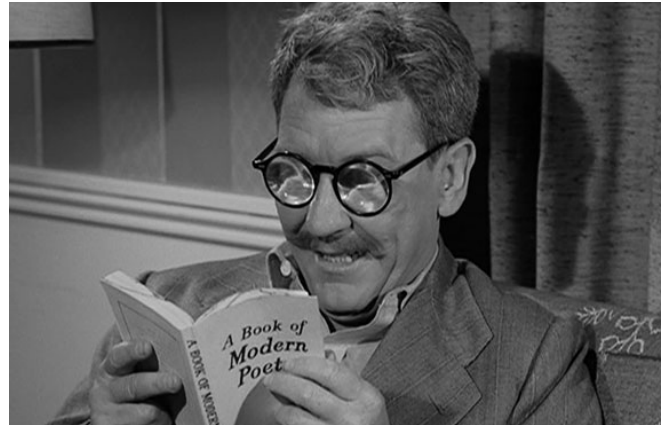


EH 102 Critical Analysis Essay Assignment Sheet

Big Dates:

- Rough Draft Due: Sunday, September 6th by 11:59PM in TII on Moodle
- Revision & Peer Review Workshop: Wednesday, September 9th; have electronic copy on deck, ready to go.
- Final Draft Due: Sunday, September 13th; submit Final Draft in TurnItIn on Moodle by 11:59pm



Length: 1,000 words (3 pages+/-)

Grade Weight: 10% of total class grade

What It Is:

For this assignment, you will be analyzing your research episode of *The Twilight Zone*. You are looking at how it is structured, staged, and performed. You are identifying its rhetorical successes or pitfalls and analyzing all the details and figurative devices that support its argument(s)/main message(s). You are looking at how the episode is appealing to its identified audiences. Your thesis should make a strong, balanced, and purposeful case for how and why the episode is and/or is not succeeding in communicating its argument and/or goals.

Goals:

- To rehearse summary, critical analysis, and close reading skills
- To rehearse more textured, more dynamic argument styles and strategies
- To rehearse quotation and MLA citation use
- To explore rhetorical situations and audience awareness
- To focus on writing and drafting process

BIGGEST GOAL: To imagine the bones and body of a text, to think about how it was constructed, and to assess the success of that craft and construction.

- **No, you do not need outside sources.** Do not look up anyone else's analysis of your episode. I only care about what you think. If you need to double-check the date or think about the cultural climate when the episode aired, take a quick look at those details. However, do NOT look at other essays or analyses of your episode.
- Yes, you are required to use as many relevant quotes as possible and/or directly reference specific parts of your text. Use as many as you need. The more specific, the better.
- Yes, you may include relevant pictures and images.
- Yes, try to avoid first person pronouns or second person (you). Please, please also AVOID THE WORD "SOCIETY" and ESPECIALLY THE PHRASE "IN TODAY'S SOCIETY." If you are talking about a general impression of culture in a specific moment in time, identify it as such. "In 21st century American culture..."
- Yes, please have fun with this paper.

Critical Analysis Assignment Break-Down

- What It Is→
 - “An argument about an argument”
 - You are arguing for the success and/or failure of your episode in communicating its main arguments and messages.
 - You are identifying specific aspects of the episode which support your stance.
- Getting Started→
 - Start by reviewing your episode multiple times. Watch and re-watch carefully, and follow the critical reading/response strategies that we have discussed to take careful notes about the episode: Observation, Association, Questions, Answers, Evidence.
 - The goal with this note-taking process is to consider what aspects of the text stand out and draw you in.
 - Once you have your notes in front of you, identify what you consider to be the main arguments or messages that the episode is communicating.
- Summary & Critical Questions→
 - Follow our “Birthday Invitation Rules” summary, and create a summary of your episode.
 - Who, What (I), Where/When:
 - Who: Author/ Creators
 - What (I): Title and Season of Episode
 - Where/When: Where did this episode air? When? What else was happening in popular culture at the time it aired?
- Critical Analysis Thesis→
 - These are the pieces of your essay’s main argument. These are the pieces that make up the thesis of your critical analysis essay:
 - What (II): What are the main arguments or messages of the text? What audiences are these messages aimed towards? Is the episode successful in making these arguments and convincing their audience?
 - How: What evidence in the episode supports your claim for the success (or failures or both) of the episode in convincing their audiences? What specific rhetorical strategies does the episode use? (Rhetorical strategy = details, figurative devices, narrative framing, etc. that make the episode “work.”)
 - Why: Why do you feel this episode needs to say what it is saying? Why does it matter?
 - Draft your answers to these questions a few times just to get a feel for them, and condense them into your own 2-3 sentence version of the following:
 - Then, draft your thesis:
 - I am arguing that: [Episode] is [successful/unsuccessful/both] in communicating [main argument(s)] and convinces [specific audiences] to consider [main message(s)] because it is important for [audience] to [know/consider] [reasons for argument(s)/message(s)]. [Episode] achieves this [success/failure/both] through the rhetorical strategies of [rhetorical strategy 1, rhetorical strategy 2, and rhetorical strategy 3].

- Main Body of Critical Analysis→
 - Each body paragraph of your essay should focus on the specific rhetorical strategies that you identified in your thesis.
 - For each rhetorical strategy, identify 2-3 details from the episode that are specific to the rhetorical strategy that you have identified. This means quoting from the episode, using screen shots (if applicable), and describing specific details from each scene.
- Conclusions→
 - Conclude your analysis by summarizing your own paper. Use the “Birthday Invitation Rules” to describe what you just wrote, but then, open it up:
 - “This essay argues that [repeat argument].”
 - Then back to the “Why?” of the episode→ Why is this episode’s message important? What other associations/ issues does it bring up?
 - “Perhaps a future analysis would also seek to consider [speculate what else is at stake here in this episode].”