

Contemporary Voices Research Report

1. Do action research and interview 10-20 people about 5-10 contemporary issues. Have interviewees score the issues they feel are the most important, from greatest to weakest, in the coming year. Tally the scores and rank the issues, by greatest to weakest. Use this data to determine which issues are worthy of having more research completed.

Some of the most prominent practitioners, of stylish written rhetoric, in our culture are newspaper columnists (now internet columnists). Sometimes they are called pundits (sources of opinions, or critics).

Please review Politico's website for "Twitter's most influential political journalists" and Business Insider's "The Politix 50: Pundits you need to pay attention to".

2. Write a brief 100-200-word biography for at least two of the columnists you research (2-4). Cite sources. Identify demographics (ex.'s: age, religion, culture, gender, wealth, political party, race, etc..)

3. Annotate three columns/articles/reports. Attach copies of the documents with handwritten notes. Your annotations should emphasize: audience, tone, central ideas, rhetorical strategies (1. Repetition: anaphora, epistrophe, epanalepsis, etc., 2. syntax: balanced, parallel, juxtaposition 3. Ethos, logos, pathos 4. Logical fallacies 5. Diction) *****ALSO, you need to type the handwritten notes; I want a typed copy showing the extracted quotes, from the article, with your responses (notes) on: organization(when/where), techniques, key features, of each article. Include analysis (multiple comments summarizing your response).

4. Choose a favorite document from #3, and find two, new documents, on the same position, same topic. Informed by the two extra documents, how do you feel about the validity of the original? Write a brief (300 word) assessment of the original document. Is it valid? Sound? Legitimate? Biased? Convincing? Why?

5. Write your own argumentative essay, with rhetoric and syntax, addressing your position, on the issue. Use all research and opinions, from #1-4, as your research, for a final assignment. Two pages max. The third page is a bibliography, to reinforce the in-text citations.

6. Write a 100-200-word reflection about the research.