

Inquiry Two

Your second assignment asks you to perform a rhetorical analysis of two online news articles, published within six months of each other, that concern themselves with the same public or political issue but have different rhetorical stances. Your essay will analyze who produces what information, how they expect that information to influence the audience, and why they make the rhetorical choices they make. You will also compose a writer's memo to reflect on your own rhetorical choices.

Process

To begin, you will choose two articles from two different online sources that concern themselves with the same current event, political candidate, or issue. (You should also try to pick a topic that is framed by some kind of popular culture source, so you can take it with you to Inquiry Three.) For the purposes of this paper, these sources *must disagree*. You should consider *CNN*, *The Drudge Report*, *Fox News*, *MS-NBC*, *The Huffington Post*, and so forth. This list is not exhaustive—if you have any questions about what sources might be appropriate, please ask.

Once you have decided on two websites, you should find an article from each website that deals with the same current event, political issue, or politician. Again, these sources *must disagree*. Print each article so you can keep notes, and so you can use the printed copies for class activities and discussions. You'll analyze your chosen texts using the strategies outlined in our textbook and discussed in class.

Your final draft will:

- Identify each article's rhetorical moves (consider our vocabulary words and our readings from *Understanding Rhetoric* for guidance).
- Describe the specific evidence that helps you draw that conclusion.
- Analyze the rhetorical differences in the two texts.
- Develop an idea about why those rhetorical differences might matter—although in-depth political research is not necessary, some information about prevailing conditions might be important for contextualization.
- Support your analysis throughout the paper with explicit connections to evidence from your sources.

Note that you should NOT argue specifically for one side or the other; in fact, if possible, you should aim in writing your final version to keep your reader from knowing which "side" of the issue you personally agree with or support. The goal for this assignment is to analyze the way these stories cover the topic, not to discuss the topic itself.

Papers must be at least 850 words, submitted in MLA-formatted documents of the file types listed on the syllabus. All papers must be accompanied by a reflective memo of at least 250 words.