

## Academic Debate and Applying Rhetoric to Other Disciplines

**Prompt:** What are the experts/professionals/professors in your MAJOR arguing about or debating? How are rhetorical skills and concepts useful in understanding and contributing to your academic discipline?

- What controversy or debate exists in your field that you need to know how to navigate and weigh in on?
- What expectations are there in your field that require you to be rhetorically conscious?
- How does rhetorical knowledge help you be successful in doing this?

**Research Requirements:** To make this project engaging, you will need to research multimedia/internet sources to find examples from your academic/career discipline that can benefit from application of the skills from our course and the overall goals of Rhetoric.

- 4 total sources from professional, scholarly, or reputable sources.
- Links to multimedia must be incorporated/embedded into your writing as hyperlinks, placed appropriately, and be correctly linked.

All sources must be “cited” through integrated and embedded hyperlinks. All material must be reputable, engaging, and current (no more than 2 years old).

They can be scholarly articles, editorial/opinion articles, youtube videos, TEDTalks, or other trade/industry related media. They should be used to illustrate your ideas.

**Audience:** Your intended audience is a group of your peers, though you may decide if they are an insider or outsider audience. Your decision here will change the way you plan and write your project.

**Length:** Min 1500 words.

**Structure:** No matter which format/style you choose, you still need to have an introduction to set up your topic and engage your audience. You may have as many body paragraphs as you’d like, depending on your content and organization, though you may have no less than 3. You may use subtitles or sections to move through the sections. You will need a conclusion where you comment on the significance of rhetorical skills and concepts to your academic field.

**Format/Genre:** The premise of this assignment is joining in on the digital conversation/discussion your industry is having, so you need to design it accordingly. While you may write your reflection using an academic essay structure (intro, 3 body paragraphs, conclusion) *if that is accurate and appropriate to your academic field*, but I recommend a more informal blog style (shorter, choppy paragraphs but more of them, informal and engaging style), or in a format/genre that is appropriate to your academic/professional discipline. Choosing and designing the appropriate formatting is part of your final grade

### Tasks Required:

- Introductory Section:
  - o Explanation of the surrounding context of a problem or situation that has led to controversy in your field, including time frames, historical/political/social influences, and the predominant concerns
- Part 1: Analysis of Side One:
  - o Explanation of one side of the controversy/debate, using at least one current and reputable source
    - Analysis of HOW this side supports their argument, focusing on trends in evidence, support, claims, and reasoning.
  - o Analysis of WHY this side argues their position, discussing how they rely on awareness of discourse community, values, biases, assumptions

- Part 2: Analysis of Side Two:
  - o Explanation of the second side of this controversy/debate, using at least ONE source.
    - Explanation of one side of the controversy/debate, using at least one current and reputable source
    - Analysis of HOW this side supports their argument, focusing in trends in evidence, support, claims, and reasoning.
    - Analysis of WHY this side argues their position, discussing how they rely on awareness of discourse community, values, biases, assumptions
    - Use this comparative analysis to help us better understand not only why and how this argument is build but how it is designed IN RESPONSE to position/community #1
- Part 3: Your Contribution:
  - o Your thoughts/contribution to the topic. Basically, after analyzing the rhetoric of both sides and using it to understand the motivations and appeals of each, what is your position, suggestions, compromise, or addition to the conversation?
    - Support this with at least 1 source.
- Part 4: Conclusion:
  - o How use of rhetorical concepts/skills is useful across disciplines.
    - What rhetorical skills and concepts are you going to need to be successful in your field/industry?
    - Do not just analyze the skills you used in the project--apply them to the real world work you'll be doing in this industry and what kinds of skills you'll need to succeed.

(Note: While this looks like an essay structure, please feel free to “play” or experiment with blog writing, informal writing, or a genre/style that is appropriate to your academic/professional discipline. In the Business world, this type of assignment is presented in a form of a Report or a Review; in the Sciences, this type of assignment is presented as a Prospectus or a Research Review. Choose a genre, style, and format that will accurately reflect the expectations and communication styles of your academic and professional discourse community, whose debate you are now joining in on)