

## Final Paper

For your second and final major writing assignment of the semester, you will write a paper that answers the question:

What is rhetoric?

Much like the Question Paper, this paper is an argument based paper. In other words, your answer to the question of “what is rhetoric?” should take form *as an argument*. The goal of this paper is to formulate and justify a cohesive, multifaceted definition of rhetoric that aligns with your values, ethics, and goals. A successful Final Paper will include the following:

- A thesis statement which forwards an argument about what rhetoric is
- A complex, multifaceted, and unique definition of rhetoric that explains and illustrates the features that comprise rhetoric, its goal or purpose, and its potential to influence thought, understanding, and action
- Synthesis of *at least* 5 different rhetorical thinkers discussed in the course that demonstrates a robust understanding of their key theories, perspectives, and/or concepts related to rhetoric

## Final Paper

100 pts

Your final paper will be assessed according to the following rubric:

Argument (30 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes a thesis statement in introduction that makes a clear, assertive argument about what rhetoric is</li><li>• References to and synthesis of thinkers are used to support main argument</li><li>• Each section and paragraph of paper links back to main argument</li><li>• Considers and addresses counterarguments</li></ul>
Definition (25 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Definition of rhetoric outlines its features, purpose, and potential</li><li>• Definition is complex, multifaceted, and unique</li><li>• Examples are used to bring the definition to life</li><li>• Definition possesses utility based on the kairotic demands of the contemporary moment</li></ul>
Synthesis (20 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• References at least 5 different rhetorical thinkers</li><li>• References to thinkers are woven into paper smoothly without overtaking the author's voice</li><li>• Thinker's ideas/theories are appropriately attributed via proper in-text citation</li><li>• Illustrates connections, throughlines, and contradictions between thinkers</li><li>• Demonstrates a robust understanding of thinkers' key theories, perspectives, and/or concepts related to rhetoric</li></ul>
Organization/Structure (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes engaging introduction that previews paper</li><li>• Body of paper organized into adequate number of focused and concise paragraphs</li><li>• Includes conclusion paragraph that reviews main points and ends on a creative last line</li></ul>
Writing (Mechanics & Fluency) (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very few (if any) grammatical/spelling mistakes</li><li>• Use of academic voice</li><li>• Concise and easy to read; flows well</li><li>• Demonstrates attention to sentence &amp; paragraph construction</li><li>• Creative transitions between paragraphs/ideas</li></ul>
Formatting (5 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adheres to one of the following styles: MLA, APA, or Chicago</li><li>• Includes appropriately formatted in-text citations and references/bibliography/works cited page</li><li>• Between 4 and 5 pages in length</li></ul>