

Question Paper

For your first major writing assignment of the semester, you will write a paper that answers one of the following sets of questions:

- Why is studying rhetoric from a historical perspective important? How might doing so help us better grapple with contemporary issues today?
- What is the most significant or impactful moment in ancient rhetorical history? How did that moment impact how we understand rhetoric today?
- What is the responsibility of the rhetor? How might a responsible rhetor (as determined by your answer to the first question) play a role in solving a contemporary problem of your choosing?

This paper is an argument based paper. In other words, your answer to one of the question sets above should take form *as an argument*. The goal of this paper is for you to synthesize what you have learned about ancient rhetorical history and theory and apply that knowledge to make sense of contemporary issues. No matter what set of questions you choose to answer in your paper, a successful Question Paper will include the following:

- A thesis statement which forwards an argument that directly answers your chosen set of questions
- Synthesis of *at least* 3 different rhetorical thinkers discussed in the course thus far that demonstrates a robust understanding of their key theories, perspectives, and/or concepts related to rhetoric
- Insightful application of ancient rhetorical concepts/ideas to contemporary issues/concerns

Question Paper

100 pts

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

Synthesis (30 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• References at least 3 different rhetorical thinkers• References to thinkers are woven into paper smoothly without overtaking the author's voice• Thinker's ideas/theories are appropriately attributed via proper in-text citation• Illustrates connections, throughlines, and contradictions between thinkers• Demonstrates a robust understanding of thinkers' key theories, perspectives, and/or concepts related to rhetoric
Application (25 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applies ancient rhetorical concepts/ideas to contemporary issues/concerns• Demonstrates how ancient rhetorical concepts/ideas possess utility in today's world• Provides a new way of thinking about a contemporary issue• Provides a new way of thinking about ancient rhetorical theories/ideas
Argument (20 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes a thesis statement in introduction that makes a clear, assertive argument that answers one of the question sets• References to and synthesis of thinkers are used to support main argument• Uses a contemporary issue/concern as evidence to support main argument• Each section and paragraph of paper links back to main argument• Considers and addresses counterarguments
Organization/Structure (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes engaging introduction that previews paper• Body of paper organized into adequate number of focused and concise paragraphs• Includes conclusion paragraph that reviews main points and ends on a creative last line
Writing (Mechanics & Fluency) (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very few (if any) grammatical/spelling mistakes• Use of academic voice• Concise and easy to read; flows well• Demonstrates attention to sentence & paragraph construction• Creative transitions between paragraphs/ideas
Formatting (5 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adheres to one of the following styles: MLA, APA, or Chicago• Includes appropriately formatted in-text citations and references/bibliography/works cited page• Between 4 and 5 pages in length