

ENGL 1102, Composition 2  
Fordham University, Fall 2021  
Paper 2: Rhetorical Analysis

**Zoom Conferences:** 10/20 (Wednesday)  
**First Draft Due:** 10/27 (Wednesday)  
**Zoom Conferences:** 11/3 (Wednesday)  
**Final Draft Due:** 11/9 (Tuesday)

For your second paper, you will write a 4-6 page paper analyzing the rhetoric surrounding a topic of your choosing. This will be easiest if you choose some sort of current event or social issue.

In preparing your paper, you should:

- Identify the major **points of view** regarding your topic
- Identify the major **arguments/lines of reasoning** regarding your topic
- Identify the major **types of rhetors** in relation to your topic
- Identify the primary **audiences** these rhetors are addressing and why
- Identify any relevant **history** relating to your topic
- Seek out examples of how the different types of speakers are discussing your topic

In your paper, you should:

- Explain the rhetorical situation of your topic (rhetor identity, audience, message, context, place, time, history, etc.)
- Report on how each rhetor or type of rhetor (the speaker in the rhetorical triangle) talks about the topic (the message in the rhetorical triangle) to which kinds of audiences
- Analyze how the rhetor's choices were informed by the rhetorical situation and their purpose
- Analyze at least one specific example per rhetor/type of rhetor

My intentions for this paper:

- It does NOT have to have a thesis or "flow"
- It can be styled as an informational report-- just inform me of the rhetorical landscape surrounding your topic
- You can use subheadings, and don't worry about smooth transitions. Each paragraph can be its own thing.
- The order of the paragraphs should still make some kind of logical sense.
- It won't be possible to do a comprehensive job listing/analyzing every part of your rhetorical landscape. That's okay. Just do however much fits within the length estimate of the essay.

(An example is on the next page, which I'm not printing, but you can see on Blackboard.)

## **An Example:**

Topic: Police brutality

Points of view: Defund the police, abolish the police, reform the police, strengthen the police, or keep the police the same

Arguments/lines of reasoning (just some examples):

A line of reasoning for “defund the police” is that crime can be more effectively addressed by funding social programs, so money should be transferred from police budgets to other city/state departments

Another line of reasoning for “defund the police” is that the police do not need the current level of funding to do their jobs (for example, why does the NYPD have tanks?)

Another line of reasoning for “defund the police” is that a lot of money is spent having police do things that shouldn’t be illegal in the first place (for example, we wouldn’t need police to be catching turnstile-jumpers if the MTA was free) or that other municipal departments could do (you don’t need to be a cop to direct traffic, you could have a separate team of transportation workers do that).

Some Types of Rhetors: Activists, police and police groups, people who have direct experience with police brutality, government officials, the news, TV shows

Audiences and Purposes:

Activists may be talking to government leaders (try to get change), or other people in the community (try to motivate people to join the cause), or the police themselves (try to get them to change their behavior)

Police may be talking to government leaders (try to get them to either fund them more or just not listen to the activists) or people in the community (try to discredit the activists and bolster their image)

The news is talking to people in the community (try to inform, or to persuade according to the editorial line)

The government is talking to activists (to get them to calm down)

TV shows are talking to whoever the target audience is for that show, but they are influenced by current events. For example, people use the term “copaganda” is used to criticize TV shows that work to present policing in a falsely positive light-- for example, the characters on Brooklyn 99 are super lovable, but they’re always The Good Guys. After last summer, the writers of the show changed the storyline for Season 8 in response to current events.