

## CS7976 Assignment 3: Rhetorical Analysis of a Section

The goal of this assignment is to get you to analyze the structure of one section of a scientific paper.

For this assignment, please choose one published research paper in your field that you admire. This paper should be different from the one you submitted earlier in the term for class critique. Then choose *one section* in that paper.

Finally, please write a 1 or 2 page informal paper analyzing the structure of this section. In your analysis, consider the questions in the table below. They are *not* a checklist; they are to guide your close reading and analysis.

The objective is to bring our attention to typical, recurring features in a research paper in your field. We will discuss each one in class, and we will try to generalize some principles from the group of eight.

Please upload the full paper and your analysis to the Slack channel by Monday Oct. 28 by 11:59pm.

Table 1. A Rhetorical Analysis of a Written Text

Element	Description of rhetorical dimension	Key questions
Intended audience	Who the writing is explicitly for or implicitly aimed at	What are the audience's likely concerns, constraints, or parameters? What are their language norms or conventions?
Situation	The circumstances, timing, and urgency that gives rise to the writing	Why did the author(s) write this? What is the issue, problem, or motivation that would cause someone to write something like this?
Strategies/moves	The rhetorical techniques that are used to achieve the aims of the writing	How is the material in the section organized? What is the role of each paragraph in achieving the aim of the section? What strategies does the author use in order to give the section a logical flow? What strategies does the author use at sentence and paragraph level to convince the audience?
Evaluation	The degree to which the writing achieves its purpose	In your opinion, did the writing achieve the author's goal? Why or why not?

Adapted from Faigley et al. (2006) as cited in A. Clark and B. Sousa (2018)