

CS7976 Assignment 4: Rhetorical Analysis of a Peer's Paper

In this assignment, each of you will give a peer analysis of a paper submitted by another member of the class, focusing on how high-level writing choices affect the reader's experience.

For this assignment, please do the following:

1. Select a conference paper or paper submission that you have written or co-written. Ideally it should be no more than 10-15 pages. If you used the abstract of an existing paper for Assignment 2, it is ok to select that paper. In order to give the reader some context, please also write a short account of the intended audience as in the table below. Please upload the paper and your description of the intended audience to Slack no later than 11pm on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14**.
2. We will randomly assign each submitted paper to a reader by the end of the day on **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15**.
3. Write a 1 or 2 page informal paper analyzing the overall structure of the paper you are assigned. In your analysis, consider the questions in the table below. They are not a checklist; they are to guide your close reading and analysis. Note that the table has changed to emphasize the overall structure of the paper, rather than the structure of a single section. You are not trying to review the contents of the paper; rather, you are trying to determine how well the author has communicated their intentions. You should be able to complete this assignment in no more than 3-4 hours.
4. Upload your analysis to Slack no later than 11pm on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**.

We will discuss each one in class, and we will try to generalize some principles from the group of eight.

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 paper organized? What is the role of each paragraph section in achieving the aim of the section paper? What strategies does the author use in order to give the section paper a logical flow, or to communicate the role of each section? What strategies does the author use at the high 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)