**Rhetorical Analysis Assignment Description**

Below are sample assignment instructions for the Rhetorical Analysis Assignment. You’re welcome to adapt or tweak the basic instructions to suit your course theme and schedule. Students will write two 2-3 page Rhetorical Analyses, worth a combined 10% of their overall grade. The purpose of the Rhetorical Analysis is to help students understand, think critically about, and articulate responses to sources, not to locate their own sources. The Rhetorical Analyses are also great opportunities to help students work on properly integrating quotes, paraphrases, and summaries into their writing. Because the Rhetorical Analysis is a new assignment for many students, please consider having students complete the [Rhetorical Analysis Group Exercise](#) in class and/or look at a [Sample Student Rhetorical Analysis](#) before writing their own.

**Basic Rhetorical Analysis Assignment Instructions**

A rhetorical analysis is an essay that breaks a text (or speech, film, advertisement, etc.) into parts and explains how the parts work together to achieve the author's goal. Put simply, *a rhetorical analysis shows how a piece of writing fulfills its purpose for a particular audience.* To write a rhetorical analysis, you must first identify the main argument or purpose of the text you are analyzing and gather information about its author and intended audience. What argument is being made, who is making it and why, and to whom is the argument addressed? Once you've answered these questions, look closely at the way the argument is supported, developed, organized, and expressed to assess how the author achieves his or her purpose in writing. Your essay should focus on one or more key aspects of the text. You might consider, for example, how the author's use of evidence, organization, and/or tone makes the argument more or less persuasive to a certain audience.

For this assignment, **write a rhetorical analysis (2-3 pages, double-spaced) on either "Food is Thought" by Mary Maxfield OR "What You Eat is Your Business" by Radley Balko.** Before you begin, take a moment to review the model essay and other resources in Moodle. **Be sure to integrate and document your sources properly, using MLA in-text citation.**