

Rhetoric in Action: Logos, Pathos, Ethos

ENGLISH COMMON CORE CONNECTION:

Research, Persuasion, Argumentation, Writing

Students will be given two short sources related to their chosen topic. They will read, annotate, and write about the topic in class. They will follow up with online research and a writing project.

Assigned 3/11: **1st performance task “informational”:**

students will write in a completely objective manner, summarizing both sides of their chosen issue (*minimum one paragraph for each side of the debate= two paragraphs total*)

DUE 3/13

Assigned 3/13: **2nd performance task “persuasive”:** using rhetorical devices (*pathos* and/or *ethos*), students will write a persuasive PARAGRAPH from **both sides** of their chosen issue.

(*minimum one paragraph for each side of the debate= two paragraphs total*) **DUE 3/17**

Assigned 3/17: **3rd performance task “argument”:** using a rhetorical device (*logos*) students will work with partners to write a research based, (minimum 5 paragraph) argumentative essay on their chosen issue (from one side only), citing sources, and including a Works Cited page.

FIRST DRAFT DUE 3/23 (Peer Editing)

SECOND DRAFT DUE 3/25

My Chosen topic: _____

Why I chose this topic: _____

*****TOPICS*****

Gun Control vs. the Second Amendment

The Second Amendment of our constitution states that all American citizens possess the right to “bear arms”; but over the past 250 years, the range, power and purpose of firearms have matured exponentially, and our government has begun the process of adjusting legislation to better control the modern weapons. Today’s debate over gun control is rampant and diverse: some Federal, State and Local legislations have limited firearm manufacturing and distribution, while others have made the domestic ownership of firearms illegal altogether (New York City, San Francisco, etc.). On the other end of the argument, people cling to our Second Amendment, and claim that these laws limiting or controlling their firearm ownership are unconstitutional. Despite this objection, there is no doubt that in recent years the governmental trend has continued to move away from constitutional tradition and toward policies of stricter gun control.

NSA’s Warrantless Surveillance Program

After 9/11- The National Security Agency implemented an unrestricted wiretapping program intended to monitor domestic telephone, text message and internet communication between normal citizens in the hope of capturing terrorist conversations. Although the program was constructed under the guise of American protection and National Security, most people view this program as a massive invasion of American right’s to privacy, and a clear violation of our Fourth and Fifth Amendments.

Executive Orders

Our Federal Government has a carefully constructed system of Checks and Balances which gives equal monitorial power to each branch. But the Executive Order is very specific tool possessed by the president that allows him (or her) to circumvent the traditional legislative process and act as sole American authority. Historically, Executive Orders have been used to pass benign laws like declaring holidays or protecting landmarks, but their power is technically only restricted by presidential restraint. As an example: during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which collected all Japanese immigrants and American citizens of Japanese descent and forced them to move to prison camps. These people were never tried for any crime, and their internment was a clear violation of our 6th Amendment, but because of the unchecked power of an Executive Order, these people were forced to abandon their lives and homes and live as domestic prisoners of war.

Guantanamo Bay and American Torture

Men and women arrested and detained in America are granted specific unalienable rights, including protection from unlawful search and seizure (Fourth Amendment), the right to not incriminate oneself (Fifth Amendment), and the right to a fair and speedy trial in front of a jury of one's peers (Sixth Amendment). Technically, these rights are only afforded to Americans when they are on American soil. Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility is an American prison on Cuban soil, which allows America to quarter and interrogate suspected terrorists and prisoners of war without the restriction of their constitutional protections. This means, while

imprisoned at Guantanamo, inmates are subjected to torture (also known as Enhanced Interrogation Tactics), systematic abuse, and no promise of an impending trial. The prison was established in 2002 after 9/11. In 2009, President Obama issued an Executive Order to close the prison, but the order was rebuffed and remains open to this day, housing an estimated 136 detainees.

Threat to Net Neutrality

The internet is our primary medium for information, and we currently exist in a system that allows balanced access to all sources, despite inherent inequities in relevance, accuracy and opinion. This is called Net Neutrality. But recently, major Internet Service Providers have begun a political campaign to promote legislation of our informational access, and end Net Neutrality. ISP's like Comcast and AT&T want to put restrictions on internet speeds for certain sites, while allowing others to continue to operate uninterrupted. To operate at the uninterrupted speed, the website would have to pay an elevated service bill to the ISP. There would be no way for a small, independent news source (like a blog) to compete with major players like the New York Times, or MSN. By removing Net Neutrality, Internet Service Providers would essentially kill local, or minority opinions, and direct citizen to a pre-established media outlets. Net Neutrality legislations would not be limited to news sources; all internet based commerce and social hubs would be subjected to new government imposed restrictions, with a single, commercially invested entity determining a site's importance and relative accessibility to the public.