



## SA#1

As we have seen with Baldwin's brief opinion essay, the Ebonics cartoons, and the "I Has a Dream" public service advertisement, genre can have a big impact on the message and audience reception of a text.

This assignment will ask you to demonstrate your **metacognition** of genre by **finding (or creating) a different genre of text (Text A)** that **uses language for a particular effect**, and **comparing this text to one of the pieces we have studied in our textbook (Text B)**

### The Task:

#### Part 1

**Choose (or create) a text** that you like or find interesting. This text can be a photograph, a blog post, a movie-poster, a comic-strip, a menu, an internet meme, a magazine advertisement, etc. In short, you may choose whatever text you like so long as it is **NOT an opinion essay, a political cartoon, or a public service advertisement.**

Take some time in choosing the text you will work with. Make sure that you can clearly describe the conventions of its genre, as well as the impact that these conventions will have on the likely audience. **Your text will be Text A** and the text from class that you compare it to will be **Text B**

#### Part 2

**Bring your chosen text to class on Monday, Oct. 2nd, and get feedback from your peers.** Do they agree on the genre conventions that you have identified? Do your peers have some thoughts regarding the ways that genre impacts your text's message? You may start Part 3 before finishing Part 2.

#### Part 3

**Write a 2-3 page paper** analyzing and explaining: **A) The genre of your chosen text.** Answer questions like: What are the conventions of this new genre? How can the viewer identify the genre? Who was the original intended audience? What is the content of the text? What role does language play in the text? How is the use of language related to the genre? Why did the producers choose the genre that they did? **B) Compare the analysis of your text to the text you have chosen from our textbook ("Text B").** Identify the genre and generic conventions, audience, and content of Text B as you did for Text A, and **most importantly, explain how these aspects of Text B differ in effect from those corresponding aspects of Text A.**

Go into detail to explain **how** each text does what you say it does. Use support from the texts to **show** the reader support for your claims.

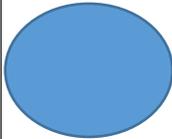
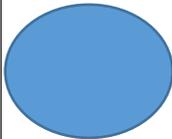
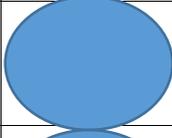
**Important note!** Please write this paper as though you were explaining these things to a classmate who missed our class discussion about genre. This is more difficult than it seems. Think about the actual needs of this imagined classmate and use writing strategies that will help that classmate.

This assignment targets Outcome 1.

Due: Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

**NOTE:** (Don't forget to attach any texts that I don't already have access to when you upload this assignment!)

(Please upload your completed assignment to the course website)

SA1 Rubric	Outstanding	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Inadequate
-The paper identifies the genre and explains the impact of genre on interpretation for both texts.					
-The paper offers detailed analyses that address the content, generic conventions, and the intended audience of the texts.					
-The paper refers to the texts themselves to support its claims.					
-The paper is written with the appropriate strategies for the intended audience (a classmate who missed class).					

## SA#2

### A Rhetorical Analysis of “*How to Tame a Wild Tongue*”

This second short assignment will give you the opportunity to practice your rhetorical analysis skills on Gloria Anzaldúa’s *How to Tame a Wild Tongue*. **Note:** This assignment is **NOT** just a summary, but rather it is an **analysis**.



#### The Task

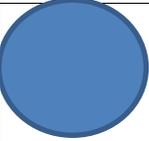
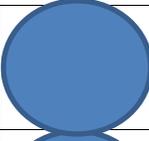
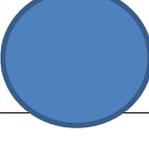
Use the information from Chapter 6 in *Writer/Thinker/Maker* to help you rhetorically analyze *How to Tame a Wild Tongue*. In other words, write a 2-3 page analysis that answers questions like the following: What is Anzaldúa's **situation**? (*What is motivating her to write?*) What is her **purpose** in writing? (*What does she hope to accomplish with her writing?*) What are her **main claims** and who is her intended **audience**? Where and how does she use “**logos**,” “**ethos**,” or “**pathos**”? What **style** does she adopt in her writing and what is the effect of this style on the reader? How rhetorically effective is her writing in this piece?

This rhetorical analysis should be detailed, but it does not need to be exhaustive. Choose what you think are the most important points to make in 2-3 pages. Support your analysis and the claims you make about Anzaldúa’s writing by **referring to the text itself**. After finishing the formal rhetorical analysis, take the last paragraph of the paper to give your own personal response to the reading. Did you enjoy or dislike the reading? Do you disagree/agree with any of Anzaldúa’s claims? Did you feel as though the ideas in this text are also relevant and important for you, or did you feel that Anzaldúa is talking about something that doesn’t really relate to you? Why do you feel that way? What did you learn from performing such a detailed analysis?

**Audience:** Think carefully about what kind of audiences would be interested in reading a rhetorical analysis of this piece from Anzaldúa. Choose one such audience and consistently target that audience throughout your assignment.

#### Outstanding papers will:

- Demonstrate an accurate and detailed understanding of the rhetorical elements in Anzaldúa's *How to Tame a Wild Tongue*
- Generate a claim about the overall rhetorical effectiveness of *How to Tame a Wild Tongue*.
- Refer to the text to support the rhetorical analysis and your claim(s) about its rhetorical effectiveness.
- Offer a thoughtful personal response which is also supported by reference to the text.
- Anticipate the interests of a likely audience for such an analysis.

SA2 Rubric	Outstanding	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Inadequate
-Demonstrates an accurate and detailed understanding of the rhetorical elements in <i>How to Tame a Wild Tongue</i>					
-Makes a compelling and well-supported claim about the rhetorical effectiveness of <i>How to Tame a Wild Tongue</i> .					
-Refers to the text of <i>How to Tame a Wild Tongue</i> in order to support the rhetorical analysis and the claim(s) about it.					
-The paper is written with the appropriate strategies for the intended audience.					
-Offers a thoughtful personal response which is also supported by reference to the text.					

This assignment targets outcomes (1) and (2)

**Due: Online next Wednesday, (Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>)**

### SA #3

## Making a Claim Based on Personal Experience of Language Policies

You have now read and analyzed the rhetorical elements of a piece of writing, and you have written a detailed paper that discussed the effects of different genres. In this assignment, you will continue to **build from description and analysis to construct an argument.**



**The task:** First, think about an interesting personal experience that you have had with language policy. Have you ever felt like you were forced to speak in a way that you did not like? Have you ever wanted to change the way that people around you spoke? Think about the laws or customs or traditions that shape your use of language. What kinds of language have you been encouraged to learn? What kinds of language have you been pressured not to use? How have you pressured other people to change their language?

**Next**, in about **two pages**, narrate a personal experience that you have had in relation to some form of language policy. This part of your essay should be a **first-person memoir**. You are telling a story about your own experiences. You can be as formal or as informal as you wish, but you must be prepared to justify your choice of language and be aware of its rhetorical effect on the reader).

**Finally**, spend the last paragraph of this paper to make a **complex, debatable** claim that comes out of your experiences as you've narrated them.

**Remember:** A complex claim should use specific and precise language and:

- Answer a “question at issue” in a **central claim** (it should be debatable and interesting)
- Imply or state alternate points of view and/or **counter-arguments**
- Show some key reasons for believing the claim, your **evidence**
- Show what the **stakes** are for the reader (why should the reader care about this?)
- Give the reader a **road map** for the essay (The reader should be able to see where the essay is going based on the elements of the complex claim)

**Before you even begin your narration**, think about the ultimate goal of this assignment. It may help you to first think about some claim that you would like to make about language. Consider brainstorming ideas about how you think certain language policies could be changed. Once you have a few ideas, you can work backwards to think about experiences that you have had that might have shaped your perspective on these issues.

Outstanding papers will:

**- Use the appropriate writing strategies to share a personal experience**

\*Think about your situation as a writer. How can you capture the reader’s attention? How can you show what is most special or interesting about your experience? How should you organize and present the information that you will give? Will you discuss a single scene from your life, or multiple times and places?

**-Write in a way that demonstrates your understanding of personal narrative genre**

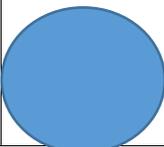
\*What will your audience likely expect from a personal narrative, and how can you meet those expectations? For some examples of writing by authors who relate their own personal experiences to language issues, see, in our textbook “Leave Your Name at the Border” (p. 642) and “Mother Tongue” (710).

**-Elaborate a complex, debatable claim which arises from your narration.**

(This claim can be used as the thesis for your first major assignment!)

This assignment targets outcomes (1) and (3).

Due on Canvas, Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

SA3 Rubric	Outstanding	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Incomplete
Uses the appropriate writing strategies to share a personal experience.					
Write in a way that demonstrates your understanding of personal narratives.					
Elaborates a complex, debatable claim which arises from your narration.					



## Major Assignment #1 Supporting a Complex Claim

*“language is also a political instrument, means, and proof of power.” -James Baldwin*

Over the past several weeks, we have been discussing different strategies for analyzing a variety of texts and images. With Short Assignment #3, we definitively moved beyond analyzing texts and images, making a claim that could focus an argument about language policy. For this assignment, you will **develop and support an argument** about some form of language or language policy. (This argument can be based on the claim that you made for SA #3).

**The Task:** Write a 5-7-page essay that develops an argument about language.

This argument should emerge from and support a **line of inquiry** that is grounded in a **surprising or controversial “complex claim”** related to language policy or language use. You can be flexible about this topic, but if you are worried that your topic is not related to language closely enough, please talk to me about it!

The majority of this paper will be spent supporting the claim that you made at the end of Short Assignment #3. You can (and should!) use parts of your SA #3 to support your argument in this essay. In fact, all of our short assignments, the texts we have read in class, and much of our day-to-day work should be considered potential resources for this project. You may also include outside sources in support of your claim if you wish. However, **DO NOT** simply begin this paper with a copy/paste version of your SA#3. **Use only** the parts of your previous writing that are helpful in introducing, explaining, and supporting your main claim.

**Rhetorical Situation:** In choosing your audience, think about who most needs to hear your message. Use what you have learned about genre, audience, and rhetorical analysis to craft a paper that is both strategic and ethical in its efforts to persuade your target audience.

**Format:**

5-7 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins.

Any citations must be in MLA format. Include a proper Works Cited page (come talk to me if you still have questions about how to do this)

**Due on Canvas:** Friday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Be aware that we will spend time working on peer review with these papers, so be prepared to share your papers with a peer review group.

MA1 Rubric	Outstanding	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Inadequate
How interesting and debatable is the paper's <b>main claim</b> ? Is the claim complex? Does it acknowledge counter-arguments and stakes? Does it have all of the “Big 5” elements?					
How well <b>organized</b> is the paper? Does the paper use effective topic sentences and show how each paragraph connects back to the main claim?					
How well is the audience and <b>rhetorical situation</b> taken into account? Does the paper strategically deploy the <b>genre conventions</b> of an “argument essay”? How convincing is the paper's argument?					
How well does the paper properly <b>integrate a variety of support</b> ? How effectively is the evidence used to support the main claim? Does the paper use <b>MLA citation</b> style?					
How well does the paper take multiple points of view and <b>counter-arguments</b> into account? Are counter-arguments developed?					