This assignment is done in one class period. We choose an interesting piece that is relevant at the time, so if the class is only 50 minutes, we do a short piece. Often, the students will be assigned a short article from text complete for assignment.

Category 1 Assignment

*Says/Does* Analysis Instructions

What reading a text closely, consider what is *does* as well as what is *says*. When you do this, you are thinking about how language *functions*, a dimension that’s distinct from what language *says*.

*Says* statements summarize the text.

*Does* statements *describe* the construction, organization, and form with as little reference to context as possible.

A *says/does* analysis results in a paragraph-by-paragraph descriptive outline.

Here are some words and phrases that describe what the language of a particular text or portion of it might do:

describes

narrates

lists

itemizes

explains

compares

illustrates

evaluates

cites

exemplifies

offers a hypothesis

supports

introduces

claims/states a proposition

provides history

categorizes

predicts

reasons

traces

provides an example

synthesize

elaborates

develops

deepens

contrasts

emphasizes

contradicts

*Says/Does* Analysis Scoring Guide

4 – Exemplary performance. All *says* statements clearly and accurately account for the content of the text; all *does* statements adequately account for the text’s function and the rhetor’s moves.

3 – Suitable performance. Nearly all *says* statements adequately account for the content of the text; nearly all *does* statements adequately account for the text’s function and the rhetor’s moves.

2 – Uneven or inconsistent performance. While a portion of the *says* or *does* statements provide at least adequate accounts of content, function, and/or the rhetor’s moves, too many inadequately do so.

1 – Inadequate performance. Most of the *says/does* statements provide inadequate accounts of content, function, and/or the rhetor’s

Category 2 Assignment

Assignment is due in two weeks.

After extensive research, create a website addressing a controversy in your field. The purpose of this assignment is to inform an audience of your peer about the controversy, and encourage them to become involved in the conversation. The website should identify, evaluate, and analyze both sides of the issue.

Some questions you may want to explore are:

1. Why is this controversy an important issue in the field?
2. What were your assumptions/biases about this issue before you began researching?
3. Why haven’t experts resolved this issue?
4. What may be some negative repercussions on the field if this issue is not resolved soon?
5. If possible identify one or two possible solutions or give advice on steps experts should take to resolve the controversy.

Use at least 10 primary and secondary sources in your field. At least 5 of those sources must be from scholarly sources.