Rhetorical Situations Gone Bad

* What follows are some slides from a quick lesson I do after introducing rhetorical situation to students.
* First I have students brainstorm different potential audiences, authors, genres, etc.
* After brainstorming I call on each group to contribute a component of a chart (the chart is empty, like on slide 5; I copy it 3-4 times and fill a new one in for each section during class). In this way some very odd situations are developed.
* After this, I assign (or ask them to each choose a different one) each group a different context to develop a text for.
* As students work on their texts, I circulate to make sure they’re keeping the context in mind. (#4 for section 51 really gave students a hard time; How exactly would Betty White persuade a cat to find clothes that fit with a eulogy??) Without circulating, students often only consider one or two parts of the context and leave others unaddressed.
* To “assess” the completed text, I’ve had students read it to the whole class, and see if they can identify the components of each particular context that was assigned.
  + We then compare the completed text with the original context and identify how (or if!!) all components were matched.
  + I also encourage students to identify strengths in the texts and make suggestions for improvement, especially as it’s related to the context.

See following slides for an example of how to structure the activity and for examples of the context students have come up with.

Group Work Cont’d

* Each Group come up with 10 examples for your aspect of the rhetorical situation. For example:
  + Author
* Arnold Schwarzenager, Ellen DeGeneres, Kevin Ware, sorority girls
  + Audience
* Brett Favre, Bill Clinton, Selena Gomez, Mother Theresa
  + Purpose
* To inform/persuade/entertain about: the legalization of marijuana, parking problems at ECU, finding cute shoes
  + Stance
* Angry, hopeful, detached
* Genre
  + Tweet, novel, short story, newspaper article, love letter, poem, blog

Rhetorical Situations gone Wrong

**Author**

**Genre**

**Stance**

**Purpose**

**Audience**

**Purpose**

1

inform

2

persuade

3

entertain

4

inform

5

persuade

6

entertain

7

inform

8

persuade

9

entertain

10

persuade

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Author** | **Genre** | **Stance** | **Purpose** | **Audience** | **Purpose** |
| 1 | Obama | Instagram caption | Happy | inform | \*\*Mary Poppins | Lowering the drinking age to 18 |
| 2 | Seth Rogen | Tumblr post | Disappointed | persuade | Parents | Heart disease awareness |
| 3 | Justin B. | Yik yak | Frustrated | entertain | Angelina J. | Older marriages |
| 4 | Pre school student | Song lyrics | Excited | inform | Snooki | Celebrity kid names |
| 5 | Betty White | Eulogy | Depressed | persuade | A cat | To find the  clothes that  fit |
| 6 |  |  |  | entertain |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  | inform |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  | persuade |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |  | entertain |  |  |

Rhetorical Situations gone Wrong Section 51

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Author** | **Genre** | **Stance** | **Purpose** | **Audience** | **Purpose** |
| 1 | Bill Cosby | Dating Profile | Exasperated | inform | J. Manziel | His food |
| 2 | Will Ferrell | Cosmo  article | Rude | persuade | wiz khalifa | Tweeting to get  attention  #oomf |
| 3 | One  Direction | A breakup letter | Harsh | entertain | Billy Mayes | Snap chatting turnt pics to be cool |
| 4 | B. Spears | Four Square check in | Confused | inform | M. Cyrus | Legalizing Marijuana |
| 5 | Kevin Hart | Yelp Review | Obnoxious | persuade | Riff Raff | Taking selfies |
| 6 |  |  |  | entertain |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  | inform |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  | persuade |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Rhetorical Situations gone Wrong Section 71

entertain

9

Group Assignment

* + Work with your group to create a piece of writing that could fit the rhetorical situation you’ve been assigned.
  + Remember to keep them appropriate.
  + You will present them to the class on Friday.
* Get started now.
* I don’t usually collect the texts, so I don’t have any examples of the extremely successful ones, but I do have one example that was sent to me so I can share it. It corresponds with #4 from Section 71:
* <https://foursquare.com/user/94119733>