

## ESSAY 2: USING ONE TEXT AS A LENS ON ANOTHER

**Points Breakdown:** Outline=20; Peer Review=20; Writing Meditation=20; Final Draft=150.

**Outline Due:** Thursday, 2/23 (refer to “Guide to Formal Outlining” on BB for instructions).

**First Rough Draft Due:** Thursday, 3/2 (must reach at least 3 pages).

**Second Rough Draft Due:** Tuesday, 3/7 (must be revised and reach at least 4 pages).

**Final Draft Due:** Thursday, 3/14 (submit entire writing process portfolio).

### Learning Outcome #2:

Use concepts and arguments from one text as a context for understanding and writing about another.

### Prompt:

In Patricia Roberts-Miller’s text, “Characteristics of Demagoguery,” she identifies rhetorical characteristics she believes to be central to demagogic discourse. **For this essay, you will use Roberts-Miller’s text as a “lens” on Donald Trump’s presidential announcement speech.** In doing so, you are expected to:

- Introduce your essay by fully establishing the rhetorical situation of both texts, as well as use metadiscourse to map out what your essay will discuss.
- Examine Trump’s speech, exploring how—or to what extent—he uses **one demagogic characteristic** (excluding “heavy reliance on fallacious arguments”). You will discuss examples—extracted from the speech—of this characteristic, explaining why it may have been used in relation to the speech’s context, as well as its possible effects on Trump’s intended audience.
- Pinpoint **one fallacy** within Trump’s speech. You will provide an example from the speech that indicates the use of that fallacy, explain how the fallacy is being used, and evaluate whether it reveals a potential weakness in Trump’s argument.
- Identify **one rhetorical strategy** within Trump’s speech that you believe to be reasonable or ethical. You will pull an example from the speech that indicates the use of that particular strategy, support your reasoning as to why it is a legitimate strategy, and evaluate it in terms of its effectiveness in supporting Trump’s argument.
- Present a conclusion that discusses the significance of your examination. This will include the discoveries made throughout the essay, as well as the importance of conducting the analysis.

### Expectations:

- 7 pages
- Printed and stapled
- Double-spaced
- Standard (1-inch) margins
- 12 point, Times New Roman font
- MLA Works Cited page
- Use specific quotes and lines of evidence. When doing so, be sure to give credit where credit is due, following MLA in-text citation formatting. *Example: In her article, Pincock asserts, “\_\_\_\_\_” (5).*

### Writing Help:

If you have any questions, you are welcome to send me an email or stop by my office during my designated hours. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to attend an optional 15-minute conference with me to go over your rough draft (I will pass around a sign-up sheet). Furthermore, you may make appointments at the SDSU Writing Center for additional assistance, and Purdue OWL is an excellent reference for MLA formatting and academic writing.

## UNIT 2 SCHEDULE

Please note that the following schedule is approximate, since dates and topics may shift as the semester continues. I will always inform you ahead of time of any changes. Please check Blackboard often for updated schedule information.

All reading and writing assignments are due on the date under which they are listed. **Always bring a hard copy of the texts up for discussion**, and remember **all writing assignments must be typed**.

### WEEK 5

TH, 2/16:

**Due:** Read Patricia Roberts-Miller's "Characteristics of Demagoguery"; BEGIN UNIT 2; Review Essay 2 prompt; Discuss Roberts-Miller's text; Fallacies.

### WEEK 6

T, 2/21:

**Due:** Read Donald Trump's presidential announcement speech; Discuss Trump's speech; Use Roberts-Miller's text as a "lens" for Trump's speech.

TH, 2/23:

**Due:** Essay 2 outline; Outline workshop; Rhetorical connections activity.

### WEEK 7

T, 2/28:

Demagogic debate!

TH, 3/2:

**Due:** Essay 1 first rough draft; Peer review workshop.

### WEEK 8

T, 3/7:

**Due:** Essay 1 second rough draft; Writing meditation workshop.

TH, 3/9:

**NO CLASS:** Conferences on 3/8 & 3/9 (these are optional but highly beneficial; a sign-up sheet will be passed around in class).

### WEEK 9

T, 3/14:

**Due:** Essay 2 final portfolio; BEGIN UNIT 3.