

Assignment # 3:	Using Multiple Texts to Examine a Significant Public Argument
Short Rough Draft Due Date:	November 30
Long Rough Draft Due Date:	December 3
Final Draft Due Date:	December 12, hard copy by <i>beginning</i> of class
Length:	6-8 <u>FULL</u> pages (not including Works Cited Page)

Throughout the semester, you have written about entering adulthood and finding your way in life. Now, you will take your inquiry a step further by examining the topic of happiness. You can narrow the topic in whichever way you choose, focusing on the how of happiness, the science of happiness, the philosophy of happiness, happiness and money, or any other focus you think is interesting. For your essay, you must analyze the rhetorical strategies in three sources: one from class, one from your own research, and one the film *American Beauty*.

Your paper should identify the rhetorical strategies used, examine why they were chosen, and analyze the effects they have on their intended audience. At its base form, you will perform a rhetorical analysis of the texts and analyze their relative effectiveness. As such, your main task is to analyze the persuasiveness of the texts by examining the strategies employed. I highly recommend scrutinizing two strategies per source and including a careful analysis of their relative effectiveness, that is, how effective each text is compared to one other.

Specifically, your 6-8 page paper should do the following:

1. Introduce the topic of happiness and demonstrate its significance.
2. Use multiple texts that examine the significant public argument of happiness, identifying and analyzing the rhetorical strategies used to support their arguments.
3. Explain how those strategies contribute to the authors' appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos.
4. Consider how those strategies are based on key assumptions the authors make about their audiences.
5. Evaluate the relative effectiveness of the texts with respect to the intended audiences.
6. Thoughtfully conclude by considering how examining the topic of happiness will positively impact you.

Requirements:

This paper requires the following:

- A correctly formatted Works Cited page.
- Three sources. One from your own research. One source must be *American Beauty*.
- Specific quotes and lines of evidence from the text.
- A traditional academic structure and PIE.
- 12pt font, 1inch margins, and MLA formatting (see Purdue OWL if you need assistance)

Student Learning Outcome:

Use multiple texts that examine a significant public argument, identifying and analyzing the rhetorical strategies used to support their arguments. Explain how those strategies contribute to the authors' appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos. Consider how those strategies are based on key assumptions the authors make about their audiences. Evaluate the relative effectiveness of the texts with respect to the intended audiences.

Note: You will turn in a hard copy of the final draft for this paper by the beginning of the last class. Papers more than 10 minutes tardy will be considered late. Electronic submissions of the final draft are not accepted. Late papers are *not* accepted, and your essay will receive a zero if it is not turned in by the end of class. Finish and print your paper before the last minute, and ensure that you have proper transportation for the last class. Traffic, printer problems, and undocumented excuses are not acceptable reasons for not turning in the essay.