

ENGL 120
Project 1 Essay
ANALYSIS OF AN ARGUMENT

Adichie Discussion Assignment Due: 8/27

Rhetorical Analysis Discussion Due: 9/3

Rough Draft Due: 9/10

Final Draft Due: 9/17 to Canvas (submit .doc, .docx, or .pdf ONLY!)

Length: 3-5 pages

In preparation for this project you will view Chiminada Adichie's "The Danger of a Single Story." The Ted Talk episode discusses stereotypes and their incomplete nature and also how having a single story of a person, place, or culture "robs people of their dignity."

Your goal is to construct a *rhetorical analysis* of Adichie's arguments. To do this, you need to write an account of her argument. An account is not the same as a summary, although you will need to do some summary. Your paper should first explain how Adichie's use of specific kinds of evidence supports the argument and how the argument is constructed in order to **EVALUATE how well the author convinces her intended audience**. Keep in mind, you are not agreeing or disagreeing with the argument, only analyzing it. This first essay will demonstrate your understanding of rhetorical strategies and appeals—understanding how Adichie is using rhetoric to convince her intended audience and discussing why she chooses specific rhetorical moves based on her intended audience. .

Successful essays will:

Have an introduction that—

- Accurately and effectively introduce and contextualize the topic, article, project, and argument in introduction. Have a clear statement that indicates how the paper will proceed.
- Indicate a clear focus in a well-written thesis statement and stay focused throughout the essay.
- Describe Adichie's project and argument, and what you see as his most important or interesting sub-claims, explaining how these sub-claims relate to the main claim.

Have body paragraphs which—

- Describe how Adichie organizes her text and how this influences what she has to say.
- **Analyze and evaluate the way she supports his claims, and the moves or strategies she employs to persuade her audience.**
- **Describe the strategy/strategies, provide interpretation and analysis of how the strategy works, and explain why Adichie chose to use these strategies (purpose and audience)**

Include a conclusion which—

- Comments on how this text is significant—what difference it might make to readers (this can go in the conclusion).

Overall—

- Implements proper stylistic conventions to include: sentence variation, college-level vocabulary, target audience, complex sentence structure
- Smoothly integrate supporting evidence (quotes) into the text.
- Use an effective structure that carefully guides the reader from one idea to the next, and be thoroughly edited so that sentences are readable and appropriate for an academic audience.
- Write the paper as if addressing a reader unfamiliar with the text.
- Include proper MLA documentation, with in-text citations and a Works Cited list at the end.