Essay 2: Rhetorical Analysis (Informative Essay)

“On Punishment for Bullying – and Punishment as Bullying.” Alfie Kohn. Education Week 2016.

When you punish a bully, you only make the problem worse.

<https://www.alfiekohn.org/article/punishment-bullying/>

In this paper, you are going to consider one of the below articles and will write a rhetorical analysis in which you explore how the author conveys a thesis, theme, or meaning to his/her/their audience.

The focus is not on whether you agree with the author, rather, focus on what strategies the author is using to create a meaningful or effective piece.  This does not mean that you have to take everything the author says at face value.  If the author seems to over-emphasize emotional appeals, ignore counterarguments, or rely on faulty data, you are free – indeed, encouraged – to call them out on it.

A couple salient features to really consider when reading:

Where does the author show audience awareness?

What sort of stylistic or language tools does the author use to prove their point?

What are the purposes (notice that there are probably several) of the author?

What disciplines or discourses does the author draw from?

How does the author use rhetorical proofs (appeals to emotion, authority, and reason) to prove their point?

"NUTS AND BOLTS" CONCERNS:

Whichever essay you choose, please consider the following guidelines:

Your essay should be about 750 words in MLA format. You must include a works cited page.

You may quote and paraphrase from the text as well – indeed you should quote or paraphrase when doing so will illustrate the point you are making.

Rubric:

70% of your grade depends on you completing the assignment to the specified length and it being on time.

The rest of the grade is determined by how proficient you are in three domains (10% each)

Reading

Demonstrates thorough comprehension of the source text. Shows an understanding of the text’s central idea(s) and of most important details and how they interrelate, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the text. Is free of errors of fact or interpretation with regard to the text. Makes skillful use of textual evidence (quotations, paraphrases, or both), demonstrating a complete understanding of the source text.

Analysis

Offers an insightful analysis of the source text and demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the analytical task. Offers a thorough, well-considered evaluation of the author’s use of evidence, reasoning, and/or stylistic and persuasive elements, and/or feature(s) of the student’s own choosing. Contains relevant, sufficient, and strategically chosen support for claim(s) or point(s) made. Focuses consistently on those features of the text that are most relevant to addressing the task.

Writing

Is cohesive and demonstrates a highly effective use and command of language. Includes a precise central claim. Includes a skillful introduction and conclusion. The response demonstrates a deliberate and highly effective progression of ideas both within paragraphs and throughout the essay. Has a wide variety in sentence structures. The response demonstrates a consistent use of precise word choice. The response maintains a formal style and objective tone. Shows a strong command of the conventions of standard written English and is free or virtually free of errors.