

CEL Chapter 5.

**Essay Choice options:**

“World Gone Mad” by Derrick Jensen

“Black Like I Thought I Was” by Erin Aubry Kaplan (female author)

“Have It Your Way’: Consumerism Invades Education” by Simon Benlow

Analyze one of these essays for the rhetorical strategies that help the author effectively make his or her purpose meaningful and clear to the audience of readers. You are analyzing the strategies the author uses that “nudge the reader to think” (11).

Remember, these authors in Chapter 5 are exploring and commenting on concepts. Concepts are ideas or abstract formulations. We form a set of personal beliefs around concepts based on our life upbringing and circumstances.

You should understand what CONCEPT the author is writing about and for what purpose the author is writing. **PURPOSE IS KEY.** Then ask yourself, what tools is the author using to get me to agree with or at least consider his or her assertions or ideas?

**Here is a sample thesis statement for an essay for this RR #2 paper:**

In her essay “The Real, the Bad and the Ugly,” Cassie Heidecker effectively conveys her purpose of asking readers to consider that the real world is really more similar to TV reality shows than viewers may want to admit.

First underline is the purpose. The second underline is the concept.

Your thesis statement should look similar to this one. (Of course, if you felt the author was ineffective in his or her writing, you can certainly write a claim of ineffective with proof.)

You can include a small amount of personal connection to the concept.

**ORGANIZATION Advice:** Use a different paragraph for each rhetorical tool or rhetorical strategy that you chose as important to analyze.

**Some Help for you ~ CEL Text Definitions – many students did not seem to understand these definitions on page 20.**

**Illustration** – pictures or graphics – actual pictures, not descriptive language

**Scenarios** – they are hypotheticals – not real, actual happenings ... alternatives – let's look at a hypothetical example – what if ?

**Testimony** – think of it as third party, eye-witness testimony, NOT first person narration

**Allusions** – an allusion is when an author uses a reference to another work of literature, movie, TV show, or other occurrence in history in the written work to draw a similarity or for some other purpose.

**Narration** – personal story – within narration comes DIALOGUE – Personal Narrative

**Description** – word choice – imagery – similes, metaphors, personification – words that create visual pictures in the reader's head.

**PASSAGE** – Noun. a portion or section of a written work; a paragraph, verse, etc.:

example - a passage of Scripture – one verse, one piece or part.

The essays we are reading are NOT passages. They are essays. An essay is a full work.

Consider reviewing CEL pages 9-13, and pay close attention to the goal of reading assignments that involve the *RHETORICAL LAYER*: Behind the obvious content of an essay, there lurks a complex set of *rhetorical tools* – strategies that persuade readers to accept the writer's ideas (10).