

AP English Language and Composition

Unit 1

(Lesson Plans Aligned with Common Core Standards)

Week 1: Introduction to Rhetoric and the Rhetorical Situation

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.6: Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1: Initiate and participate in discussions on complex ideas.

Lesson Objectives:

- Define rhetoric and its significance.
- Identify purpose, audience, and context in various texts.

Activities:

1. **AI Activity:** Use an AI chatbot to generate responses to different rhetorical situations and analyze the effectiveness of its rhetorical strategies.
2. **Bell Ringer:** Students write a response to the question: "What is rhetoric?"
3. **Mini-Lecture:** Overview of rhetoric and the rhetorical situation.
4. **Group Work:** Analyze short texts (e.g., advertisements, political speeches) to determine purpose, audience, and context.
5. **Discussion:** Compare and contrast how different genres address their rhetorical situation.
6. **AI Activity:** Utilize an AI text analyzer to evaluate the strength of rhetorical appeals in selected texts and discuss findings.

Assessment:

- Homework: Analyze a short speech or op-ed for rhetorical situation and provide a one-page response.

Week 2: Appeals: Ethos, Logos, and Pathos

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.8: Delineate and evaluate reasoning in seminal texts.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.2: Write informative texts to convey ideas clearly.

Lesson Objectives:

- Identify ethos, logos, and pathos in texts.
- Evaluate how appeals are used effectively for specific audiences.

Activities:

1. **AI Activity:** Use an AI chatbot to generate responses to different rhetorical situations and analyze the effectiveness of its rhetorical strategies.
2. **Bell Ringer:** Students identify appeals in a short ad or speech clip.
3. **Lecture & Guided Notes:** Explanation of rhetorical appeals with examples.
4. **Small Group Activity:** Analyze MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech to identify appeals.
5. **Class Discussion:** How appeals interact and reinforce each other.
6. **AI Activity:** Utilize an AI text analyzer to evaluate the strength of rhetorical appeals in selected texts and discuss findings.

Assessment:

- Homework: Annotate a selected text for rhetorical appeals and write a brief analysis.
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Week 3: Analyzing the Structure of Texts

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.5: Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of structure.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.4: Produce clear and coherent writing.

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand how text structure contributes to meaning.
- Recognize and analyze organizational patterns in texts.

Activities:

1. **AI Activity:** Use an AI chatbot to generate responses to different rhetorical situations and analyze the effectiveness of its rhetorical strategies.
2. **Bell Ringer:** Identify text structure in a short passage.
3. **Mini-Lecture:** Overview of common structures (e.g., problem-solution, cause-effect).

4. **Close Reading Practice:** Analyze George Orwell’s “Politics and the English Language.”
5. **Writing Workshop:** Create outlines to analyze structure in an assigned text.
6. **AI Activity:** Utilize an AI text analyzer to evaluate the strength of rhetorical appeals in selected texts and discuss findings.

Assessment:

- Homework: Write a paragraph analyzing the structure of a selected text.
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Week 4: Writing Thesis-Driven Rhetorical Analysis Essays

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.1: Write arguments to support claims with analysis and evidence.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.5: Develop and strengthen writing through revision.

Lesson Objectives:

- Develop strong thesis statements for rhetorical analysis essays.
- Write clear and cohesive essays supported by textual evidence.

Activities:

1. **AI Activity:** Use an AI chatbot to generate responses to different rhetorical situations and analyze the effectiveness of its rhetorical strategies.
2. **Bell Ringer:** Revise a weak thesis statement provided by the teacher.
3. **Mini-Lecture:** Structure and components of a rhetorical analysis essay.
4. **Peer Review:** Exchange drafts for feedback.
5. **Class Discussion:** Common challenges in rhetorical analysis writing.
6. **AI Activity:** Utilize an AI text analyzer to evaluate the strength of rhetorical appeals in selected texts and discuss findings.

Assessment:

- Homework: Finalize and submit a rhetorical analysis essay.
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Assessments Overview:

Formative Assessments:

- Annotations of texts for rhetorical strategies.
- Class discussions and small group activities.
- Drafts of thesis statements and essay outlines.

Summative Assessment:

- A complete rhetorical analysis essay evaluating a speech, op-ed, or persuasive text.
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Resources:

- Sample texts: MLK's "I Have a Dream," Orwell's "Politics and the English Language."
 - Graphic organizers for rhetorical analysis.
 - AP Classroom resources and past AP prompts.
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Differentiation Strategies:

- Provide scaffolded examples for struggling students.
 - Offer advanced texts for students needing challenges.
 - Use multimedia resources (e.g., video clips of speeches) for diverse learning styles.
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Reflection and Feedback:

- Conduct weekly exit tickets to assess understanding.
- Modify instruction based on formative assessments.
- Encourage student self-reflection on writing progress.

Group work has been further integrated into each week's activities, including collaborative textual analysis and structured peer discussions. Additionally, public domain readings such as Frederick Douglass's "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" and Susan B. Anthony's "Speech on Women's Right to Vote" have been added to diversify rhetorical analysis practice.