Editorial Analyses - AP English Language & Composition

This is a bi-weekly assignment that will due six times during first semester (see due dates below.) For each due date you will select, read and analyze a current editorial about an issue that interests you.

#1 – Due Friday, September 21   #4 – Due Friday, November 9
#2 – Due Friday, October 5   #5 – Due Friday, November 30
#3 – Due Friday, October 19   #6 – Due Friday, December 14

Sources for Editorial Analyses

The New York Times (newspaper) *The Washington Post* (newspaper)   *The Wall Street Journal* (newspaper)
The Atlantic (magazine)   *The Economist* (magazine)   *The New Yorker* (magazine)

Visit the class website for links to opinion pages of these periodicals: www.pwhsaplanguage.pbworks.com

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- Print the article. **Annotate** the article and then write a 3-4 page response that indicates the writer's main argument (thesis) and an <u>evaluation</u> of the writer's **appeals to logos, pathos and/or ethos.** You should also comment on the writer's style, by illustrating noteworthy uses of diction, syntax, figurative language and tone. You may also comment on the writer's organization of the piece, when appropriate.

- Use the **planning sheet** to organize your ideas about the editorial.

- Editorial Analyses must be accompanied by appropriate source citation (**bibliography and parenthetical citations**) as specified by MLA. You may use an online citation generator for the bibliography.

- Header on first page will include Your Name, Class/Hour, Teacher and Date. Thoughtful titles for these analyses are strongly encouraged! ☺

Editorial Article Response Rubric _____   AP English Language and Composition

Article shows evidence of thoughtful annotation for rhetorical appeals and stylistic devices.
1   2   3   4   5

Thesis/main argument of editorial is correctly identified in the introduction paragraph of analysis.
1   2   3   4   5

Ethos, Logos and Pathos are identified in the article and explained with examples. Commentary on overall effectiveness of argument and/or individual appeals is included.
1   2   3   4   5

Rhetorical/Stylistic strategies are identified and explained with examples (Diction, Syntax, Figurative Language, etc.)
1   2   3   4   5

Correct use of MLA Format, including parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page.
1   2   3   4   5

Demonstrates good sentence variety and smooth writing. There are few, if any, errors in punctuation/grammar.
1   2   3   4   5

AP English Language & Composition
Editorial Analysis Planning Sheet
The following questions will help you to plan your Editorial Analyses for this class. Remember to use parenthetical citations (writer's last name OR title of editorial if no identified writer) whenever you include a quotation or paraphrase from the article in your written response.

1. What is the main argument (thesis) of this editorial?

2. Examples of Appeals to Logos
   The writer appeals to the audience in a logical way when he/she…
   · Uses specific details, examples, facts, statistics, or expert testimony to support
   · Acknowledges the opposing viewpoint (a strong writer also refutes it)

3. Examples of Appeals to Pathos
   The writer appeals to the audience's emotions when he/she…
   Uses Figurative language (metaphor, simile, alliteration, hyperbole, personification, etc.)
   · Personal anecdotes/stories
   · Words with strong connotations (loaded language)
   · Vivid, concrete description, details and imagery

4. Examples of Appeals to Ethos
   The writer demonstrates credibility when…
   · Appealing to shared values (using the words "we", "us")
   · The reputation or biographical information of writer establishes credibility

5. Examples of effective syntax (Why effective?)

6. Examples of effective diction (Why effective?)

7. Examples of other effective rhetorical/stylistic devices?

8. The tone of the piece is _____ because…..

9. Taken as a whole, the writer's argument is effective/ineffective (circle one) because…

   Often, the strongest arguments use an effective combination of all three appeals.

10. The editorial uses the following patterns of development (Be able to explain <u>how you know</u>)

o   Narration (storytelling, recounting events)

o   Description (emphasizes the senses with vivid details)

o   Process Analysis (how something works, how something was done, etc)

o   Exemplification (facts, specific cases or instances to illustrate a point)

o   Comparison and Contrast (highlight similarities and differences in two things)

o   Classification and Division (breaks down a larger idea or concept into parts)

o   Definition (defines a term)

o   Cause and Effect (analyzes the causes that lead to a certain effect or the effects that result from a cause)