

You will write 2 essays, minimum one page each:

1. Jim Lehrer continually asked Governor Romney and President Obama to talk about the differences between their policies and goals. I want you to talk about the differences in how these candidates presented their differing ideals. **In a well-developed essay, analyze the rhetorical moves (language and physical) that the candidates made.**
 - Include all three speeches we watched.
 - Come to and express a general conclusion about both candidates' strategies in all three speeches as a whole.
 - Then get specific. Choose at least one specific strategy and explain its effect as well as how each candidate used it. You could:
 - Pick a strategy and compare both candidates' use of it
 - Pick a strategy one used, explain its effect, and explain how the other candidate responded with a similar or different strategy
 - Pick different strategies for each candidate and compare their effectiveness
 - Etc.

In this paper, your job is to be and sound "disinterested." In rhetoric, this lack of self-interest is part of the writer or speaker's ethos. It provides the feel, at least, of a fairness and equanimity that allows the audience to trust you as a source. Check your political bias at the door and analyze the rhetorical moves being made. I should not be able to tell which way you lean when I read your analysis.

2. Who won? Despite what debates *should* accomplish, we Americans view them, in general, as competitions that someone can win. Of course, in this particular sport, both sides usually come out in the end claiming they won. **Looking at the rhetorical side of the speeches only, not how the policies match up, make a claim of who you think won and support it with evidence from all three speeches.**
 - Include comparison of the two candidates' styles and rhetorical moves
 - Defend Romney or Obama as the "winner" or Qualify them both as "winning" certain parts of the debate
 - Provide evidence from all three speeches to back up your claim

In this paper, you are free to let your own bias show through. If you would like to bring in prior knowledge, you may, but it must have to do with rhetoric. Letting your bias show is not the same as mud-slinging or being malicious. Make a claim and be able to back it up.

Both papers should be **at least** one side of a piece of notebook paper (meaning that would get you the minimum passing grade as long as the content meets the above expectations). You may re-watch the debates/parts of the debates as many times as you need to on your iPad. Turn in both essays stapled to your charts from watching the debates. You will have today and tomorrow in class to work on this. If you don't finish by the end of class on Friday, it will be homework due on Tuesday 10/16.