Rhetorical Analysis Assignment

English faculty revised the prompts for this assignment in January 2023 to align to the GE Written Communication First-Year Composition Rubric Draft revised by English department faculty for pilot in AY 2023-24.

Background:
A rhetorical analysis is a close examination of how well an argument persuades an audience. More specifically, a rhetorical analysis investigates the different aspects of a text and makes a judgment about how these parts contribute to the text's overall effectiveness (or ineffectiveness).

Assignment Guidelines:
In an essay, have students rhetorically analyze one or more texts. The essay will need to make a case for how/why the text or texts were/were not persuasive to their intended audience.

Some instructor guidelines for assignment development:

- Scaffold the assignment so students have multiple opportunities to identify rhetorical appeals and practice the language of rhetorical analysis.
- Provide opportunities for students to receive peer, tutor, and/or instructor feedback on their drafts.
- Have students consider the intended audience for the text(s) being analyzed.
- Have students analyze the author's intended purpose.
- Have students evaluate the effectiveness of the rhetorical appeals being used.

Example Prompt:

Analysis and Synthesis Essay
Write a thoughtfully organized, well-developed, and carefully proofread analysis synthesis essay that meets the following criteria:

1. Choose <u>two</u> of the assigned class readings.
2. Summarize both readings
3. Analyze each reading considering their rhetorical features and key ideas.
4. Compare and contrast the readings, both the authors' ideas and rhetorical strategies.
5. Wrestle with the authors' different perspectives, synthesizing their ideas to develop a complex response that reflects your new view of the issues and concepts discussed in the readings.
6. Document all sources with in-text citations and include them on your correctly formatted Works Cited page.