**Instructor: Semester**

**Rhetoric 1030 Rhetorical Analysis – Muslim Experiences in the U.S.**

**Important Dates:**

Email text choice for approval:

Workshop:

Final draft due:

**Assignment:**

Pick a text—a news article, essay, song, speech, advertisement, or short story—that engages with the Muslim American experience in some way that makes you curious. Consider its arguments carefully and write an in-depth rhetorical analysis. This means that you will be performing a very close reading of the text (re-reading it many times). As you work through the text, you will consider purpose, audience, persona/ethos, message, and situation. You want to examine each dimension of the piece and describe how the author’s work relates to those elements. Be sure to include summary and quotes from the text to support your analysis. Draw directly from our activities and practice in class. In particular, you might consider our reading and activities relating to misrepresentation and stereotypes.

Some questions to think about:

* How does the author establish herself as an authority?
* What is her purpose?
* Why is this important?
* What larger conversation does this article speak to?
* How does this author handle other texts?
* What is the context within which this author is writing, performing, or speaking?
* How does the tone/language influence the effectiveness of the argument?

**Purpose:**

Analyzing rhetorical choices and strategies helps us to, in turn, become better readers, speakers, writers, and listeners. When we study the effective choices a writer makes, we gain a deeper understanding of the text. As writers, we learn a number of new strategies to incorporate into our own writing — in other words, we are adding tools to our toolbox. This will prove to be particularly beneficial down the road when we craft speeches and essay two. All of our work will build the skills you need to complete later assignments.

Beyond that, we become more engaged citizens when we look beyond the surface to confront stereotypes and misrepresentations. When we can identify arguments and how they work, we can better see the world around us.

**Formalities:**

This essay must be 800-1200 words. You may format it as a medium length blog post with captioned images and/or hyperlinks that point to the text you analyze.

**Creative Commons Licensing**

This assignment is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/). Anyone in the world is free to read, download, adapt, change, translate, and share it with others. The only condition is that you attribute the assignment to Iowa Digital Engagement and Learning (IDEAL.uiowa.edu), Ashley Wells, Sonja Mayrhofer, and Brittany Borghi: give [appropriate credit](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/), provide a link to the license, and [indicate if changes were made](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/). You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. For more information on copyright click [here](http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/copyright)

[Creative Commons License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)