AP Language: Rhetorical Analysis

“My Daily Dives in the Dumpster**”**

Prompt:

**Write an essay in which you explain Eighner’s attitude toward his subject. In your response, consider such features as tone, diction, and irony.**

Helpful Hint: Thesis Statement

For an essay of rhetorical analysis, you need a strong thesis statement. A strong thesis statement ***should***:

* Avoid using first person or phrases like “I believe” or “I think”
* Serve as a guide to your essay for your reader
* **Assert** your conclusion and **take a stand** on the author’s rhetorical strategies
* State what techniques you will be analyzing and the impact of those techniques on the effectiveness of the text

There is actually a formula that you can use to create your thesis:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author name and profession/identity** | **Name and genre of work** | **Pronoun/Verb** | **Rhetorical Devices Used** | **The reason s/he uses this kind of rhetoric** | **What this kind of rhetorical device is intended to do/prove** |
| In civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.’s | famous essay entitled “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” | he uses | an appeal to pathos and emotional diction | to remind the white ministers in Alabama that as a similarly qualified, African-American Christian pastor, | he shares with them the religious duty to follow a public course supporting peace and love for all mankind. |

\*\*Thesis statements vary structurally depending on what your point is, the nature of the work, etc.\*\*

Before you write, gather information about what you want to say about this essay:

1. What strategies and techniques are you discussing?
2. How effective or ineffective are these techniques?
3. Why are these techniques effective or ineffective?

After you write a draft of your thesis, compare it to your responses to the above questions. Are each of them present? Are they clear??? If so, you may begin your essay….