

UNIT 1 PROJECT: RHETORICAL ROLE-PLAY

1/30-2/1: Group Planning

2/3-2/8: Role-Play in Class

2/10: Reflection Due

Overview

The setting is Ancient Greece, just after the Peloponnesian War and the Reign of Thirty Tyrants. It's a time for democracy and for rhetoric. For this role-play, you'll be assigned a group at random: Oligarchs, Moderate Democrats, Socratic, Indeterminate. In addition, two students will have the opportunity to take the role of "president," and will write a slightly different kind of speech. The presidents will still belong to a faction for collaboration purposes, but will be neutral participants on the days of speeches. (Handouts on your role will be distributed in class.)

There are two questions that we'll be dealing with in our role-play. The first day, we will look at what do with the Thirty Tyrants. The second day we will look at questions of how we should govern Greece now that they are gone. You will be asked to develop arguments for both of these days with the groups. On one of these days, you will be responsible for writing and delivering a formal speech in support of your group's position.

Applying what we've learned

This project asks you to apply what we've learned about classical rhetoric. You'll have to think about what will be persuasive for this **audience and rhetorical situation**. Although this should be fun, you should take the situation seriously as if you were an Athenian. A part of the challenge is being convincing in this different rhetorical situation.

You will use the classic **arrangement** including exordium, narration, partition, confirmation, refutation, and peroration. You'll also use the canon of **style** by including **figures** and **tropes** we covered in class. You'll be asked to reflect on your own use of these features in your speech.

Lastly, you'll need to think about your own role as part of the **audience** for these speeches. We'll be voting at the end of each session on proposals made by the speakers. You'll want to vote based on who you think made the more convincing argument.

Collaboration v. Individual Work

With your faction, you will come up with a list of arguments for your position. You'll draft a reconciliation agreement together and a proposal for governance. The presidents will contribute to a group for these purposes.

After gathering the arguments and discussing as a group, you will write your own individual speech. You are welcome to share this speech with your group to get feedback and to make sure you aren't repeating what your other group member is saying on the same day you're going. You will write and turn in an individual reflection about your speech (see below).

Your Speech

Your speech will follow the conventions of classical rhetoric we talked about and forward the arguments prepared by your faction. You'll have **3 minutes** for your speech. You will be cut off at three; but don't have a 1 minute speech either! **Delivery** is important, but don't worry we won't be testing *memory*. You can have notes or a script to read from. Just don't be too attached to it. If you are buried in your reading, you won't have strong delivery. **Two-Three** people from each faction, plus **one president** will speak on each day.

Turn your speech in on Blackboard before 11 am on the day you preform it.

Reflection/Analysis

You will write an individual analysis of your own speech. In the sense that you will be completing a personal reflection; however, it should involve a great deal of analysis on what you did and why. This is where you will demonstrate the topics covered in class: rhetorical situation, audience, the rhetorical appeals and the four of the five canons of rhetoric (invention, arrangement, style, and delivery). You'll explain how you applied these to your work. How did you respond to your audience and situation? Which rhetorical appeals did you use in your speech and why? Invention will talk about the way your group worked together and came up with ideas. Arrangement will explain how your speech fits with the

classical order. Style is about which tropes and figures you used and why. Finally, you will reflect on your own delivery and how your group did as a whole. This accompanying paper should be 3-4 additional pages beyond your speech.

Turn the reflection in as a second attempt on Blackboard by 11 am 2/10