**Rhetorical Analysis**

**Example thesis:**

**In Robert F. Kennedy’s “Remarks on the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.”** he emphasizes the need for peaceful unity between all the people, black and white, in the United States *through the use of repetition, appeals to emotion, and personal analogy.*

**Step 1:** Read the directions *including* the background information.

**Step 2:** Read and annotate the text.

**Step 3:** Identify what devices you see at work and fill in the columns for 2-4-6.

**Step 4:** Choose a universal idea (theme) and fill in the 8 column.

**Thesis checklist:** topic, devices/strategies, effects, universal idea

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| --- | --- |
| **Pieces of the thesis statement** | **Example thesis for “Remarks on the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.”** |
| **Topic (literal noun)** |  |
| Claim (verb) |  |
| Universal idea (abstraction) |  |
| *Direction (reasons/examples for the concrete)* |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2** | **4** | **6** | **8** |
| **Devices** | **Why it’s that device** | **Effect** | **Universal Idea** |
| **Example 1** |  |  |  |  |
| **Example 2** |  |  |  |  |
| **Example 3** |  |  |  |  |

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| STRATEGIES – LEVELS OF STRUCTURE | DEVICES- LEVELS OF LANGUAGE |
| * The three appeals – logos (logic/reason), pathos (emotion), & ethos (reputation/credibility/trust)
* Tone
* Arrangement- inductive, deductive, etc.
* Mode of development – narrative, devision/classification, satire, etc.
* Repetition
* Patterns created from devices- imagery, diction, syntax
* Language registers
* Listing of reasons
* Opening with a counter argument or making a concession
* Anticipating objections
 | * Imagery or selection of detail
* Diction
* Syntax
* Rhetorical questions
* Irony
* Figurative language – metaphor, hyperbole, understatement, etc.
* Schemes
* tropes
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