

## Term Traces—Making Connections: Rhetoric doesn't work in a vacuum



The Trace: These traces (4 in total) are meant to help us understand not only the content as presented by each individual we read but also the ways in which connections can be made across them by identifying key terms and trends that stand out to you as readers. Each trace will be comprised of the following:

1) a summary of each rhetorician/text

- Summaries should a) identify the rhetorician clearly, b) identify their major texts that you have read, and c) summarize their main points and their contribution to the field (so about a paragraph for each)

2) an establishment of 3 key terms and how they are discussed within each,

- key terms should be defined as you see them functioning as a whole but it is also useful to see the ways in which different rhetoricians define them as well.

- potential terms (feel free to select your own terms as well...these are just here to get you started): art, techne, embodiment, imagery,

invention, rhetorical reasoning, genre, language, topics/commonplaces, agency, logic (logos), ethos, pathos, kairos, audience, Rhetorical Canons: 1) invention 2) arrangement 3) style 4) memory 5) delivery, Rhetoric types: 1) deliberative 2) forensic 3) epideictic 4) homiletics, knowledge, discourse, politics, rhetorical situation

- when selecting terms you can choose different terms for every trace but you might also be interested in seeing how terms ebb and flow over time—either approach is great.

3) an establishment of 3 trends you have noticed while reading these texts, and finally

- after reading and discussing it in class consider the things that stood out to you most
- these are potential trends that you might notice as you read each chunk of texts
- identify 3 within the trace and discuss how you see them surfacing in the texts at hand

4) a section that makes connections across the texts based on the ways in which they discuss the terms and how you see the trends surfacing.

- here is where the magic happens
- write a few paragraphs, lets say 4 or so, making an argument of your choosing that connects the rhetoricians you have read based upon the terms and the trends you have identified
- think about how this is a good practice for the essay questions on the exam
- this is a place for you to sort of the ways in which the information in the preceding sections (summary based) can lead you to a position and create a conversation about rhetoric.
- feel free to make citations from the readings (cite the correctly please) to bolster your points.

The content: Think about the things you have focused upon in your QOCs as well as in class discussion. Most likely these places will help you see the trends you didn't even know you were uncovering. Use the QOCs to your advantage as you compose your traces... they might provide you with a potential argument to make or highlight a key term you want to define. By the time you get to the trace, you have been thinking critically about each text; therefore, you will be ready to take this next step in understanding what you have read.

The format: Traces can appear in a variety of forms. You could approach it paragraph style, in a grid-like fashion or an hybrid thereof. Your organization may also follow what ever you choose. Most likely you will do one of two things in terms of the organization 1) start with the summaries, establish the terms and provide their "definitions" according to each rhetorician, establish the trends and how they surface in the reading, and then arrive at your mini essay about connections OR 2) establish each rhetorician by summary, the terms defined and the trends for each (EX. everything for Aristotle, everything for Plato, and everything for Cicero), and then arrive at your mini connections essay. You may also find a different organizational pattern that works for you. Do that. This will depend entirely on how your brain works.

The length: Traces have no specific length. Due to their nature, they will be longer rather than shorter, especially since you are covering multiple texts within each one. Length in pages will also depend on the ways you choose to organize. Bottom line...it is as long as it needs to be.

The grading: Each trace is worth 25 points with 4 traces in total equaling 100 points of your grade. You will be graded on completeness, thoughtfulness, and rhetorical/critical thinking as you make connections. Just like the QOC, the term traces are not meant to hurt your grade, but effort counts. As you read each text, I'd suggest doing at least the summary for the looming trace so that you don't have to go back to figure out what was said when the trace is due. But...that's just me. You do you.