

At the beginning of the semester, my understanding of rhetorical situations and genre was pretty limited. I knew that different assignments had different formats, like essays or presentations, but I didn't really think deeply about why those differences existed. I wasn't always considering audience, purpose, or context in a clear way. I mostly just focused on completing the assignment and meeting the basic requirements. Genre to me was more about structure than about how writing works in real world situations.

Now, I have a much stronger understanding of rhetorical situations and genre. I've learned that every piece of writing is shaped by its audience, purpose, and context, and that those elements should guide the choices I make as a writer. For example, when working on my proposal and social commentary, I had to think more carefully about who I was addressing and what I wanted them to take away from my writing. This helped me adjust my tone, organization, and even the kind of evidence I used. I also understand that genre is not just a format, but a way of communicating that follows expectations while still allowing for creativity.

Understanding rhetorical situations and genre is useful outside of the classroom because it applies to real life situations. Whether it's writing a professional email, creating a resume, or even speaking in different settings, knowing how to adjust your message for a specific audience and purpose is important. It helps make communication more effective and can influence how people respond. In the future, my goal is to continue improving my ability to analyze rhetorical situations quickly and make intentional choices in my writing. I also want to keep practicing writing for different audiences so I can expand my range as a writer. I've grown from seeing writing as just completing assignments to understanding it as a purposeful act of communication, and I want to keep building on that in the future.