



## The Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to put into practice your knowledge of rhetoric and develop your own persuasive argument about a civic or community issue that you care about. To complete it, you will work in teams of three to create a blog that explores a current civic, political, or cultural issue that your team identifies as important. Each individual writer will then contribute at least one post (1,000 – 1,250 words) that makes a persuasive argument about the issue you choose to organize your blog around. After all the teams publish their blogs, each team will then post six comments (250 words each) in response to the other teams' posts. These may be written collaboratively or divided up equally among each team's writers.

You will be evaluated on this project both as an individual writer and as a member of your editorial team. That is, your final grade for this assignment will be based primarily on the persuasive piece that you write individually, but you will also receive credit for the overall presentation of your blog and your team's comments on other blog posts. Your post will be evaluated in terms of how effectively it appeals to the various rhetorical proofs we've been studying all quarter and how persuasive it is overall.

## Ways to Approach It

As a team you might decide to stage a debate about the issue you choose to write about, or you might identify a civic problem or a pressing issue that DU's campus faces that you each propose different solutions for. Think of your blog as an electronic version of the op-ed pages of the *Denver Post* or the *New York Times*. You could also cultivate different personas and/or political values than you personally espouse. You might also write an editorial that reflects your team's common values or ideas about an issue.



## Timeframe

Date	Task
W Feb. 16	Pass out assignment, brainstorm possible topics, create teams.
M Feb. 21	Submit team's editorial plan, identify focus of pieces, start drafting.
W Feb. 23	Bring initial, rough draft of individual posts to class, keep writing.
M Feb. 28	Submit complete draft of individual posts to team for peer review.
W Mar. 2	Post articles for public good team blog by the start of class.
M Mar. 7	Read blog posts from the other teams; post comments on other teams' blogs.