"Covering the Rhetorical Situation in Denver, CO"

DenveRhetor

Late Edition

Tuesday, 4.6: limited sunshine; first draft due in class. **Thursday, 4.8:** cloudy; revised draft due on blog and to John. **Friday, 6.4:** frogs fall from the sky; final draft due to John.

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DenveRhetor Project Assigned

WRIT 1133 Students Rejoice

By JOHN TIEDEMANN

For their first project, WRIT 1133 students will contribute a piece to DenveRhetor (http://denverhetor.blogspot.com/), an online publication covering the rhetorical situation in the Mile High City. Each contribution will consist of an insightful analysis of a local rhetorical event. DenveRhetor reporters take the rhetorical concepts they've learned in WRIT 1122 and 1133 off campus to interpret civic discourse in action, for a public audience.

Exactly what events do these rhetorical journalists cover? Editor John Tiedemann replies: "Any instance of public persuasive discourse in the city of Denver — speeches, rallies, debates, meetings of civic groups, sermons, poetry readings, public artworks, science museum exhibits — you name it. Wherever rhetoric takes place, DenveRhetor reporters are there."

DenveRhetor reportage comes in many styles and many media. Some reporters choose to write in the style of conventional analysts; some write editorials; others write in the style of "new journalists;" and still others do photo- or video-analyses. All reporters, however, are committed alike to inventing original arguments based upon a careful, subtle, and deep rhetorical analysis of the events they cover.

"I haven't been this excited since WRIT 1122," said one student, who requested anonymity. "I can't wait to get off campus, apply my knowledge of rhetorical concepts, and then write a penetrating, pellucidly clear draft of my analysis. And to think that I then get to revise it! Good heavens, I am positively overcome with enthusiasm!"

How DenveRhetor Reporters Find Events to Cover

Previous generations of DenveRhetor reporters have found that a good way to search for events is to consult the following websites, which list many of the goings-on in town:

- Civic Satisfaction: http://civicsatisfaction.org/
- denverevolution: http://www.denverevolution.org/
- The city of Denver community calendar: http://tinyurl.com/cf8576

Of course, there are many other ways to find rhetorical events — community calendars, publications, word of mouth, and so on. So, Dear Reader, if you discover other resources or learn about interesting events, please let our editor know!

BEHIND THE SCENES: What Goes into a DenveRhetor Analysis?

When a DenveRhetor reporter arrives on the scene, he or she behaves much like any reporter: listening carefully, soaking up details, and taking copious notes.

However, because the DenveRhetor staff are *rhetorical* reporters, they concentrate on the rhetorically significant information: What's the exigence for the discourse? What's being argued? Who's the audience? What are the constraints on the situation? What personae do the speakers project? In short, they carefully record *all* of the elements of the rhetorical situation, so that they'll have the raw material that they need when it comes time to write.

And when that time comes, DenveRhetor reporters aim not merely to describe what happened but, most importantly, to *analyze* it, using the concepts they've learned in class.

Of course, these analyses come in many styles, which is why DenveRhetor reporters consult the *models* on Blackboard to find a style that suits them.

First drafts of these pieces are due in class on Tuesday, April 6; revised drafts are due on the blog and to John via email by the start of class on Thursday, April 8; and final drafts are due on Friday, June 4.

Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra! Extra!