

Response Page 3: Prepping for Essay 3

Response Page 3 is a document crucial to the planning stages of your Essay 3. Here you will think through and lay out your ideas for exactly what question your essay will be answering, and how you will present your answer to readers. You will see how by the time I finished typing my (red) replies below, I have already worked out a lot of material to pursue for when I start drafting my essay. The reading we have done last week on rhetoric and argument should help you with several of the items below. You will see that a few of the required items below (A, B, & C) are already required on the discussion board for this week, but should still be a part of this document as well.

Due to the nature of this RP, you do not have to write paragraphs. Listing things will work better. Type the black bolded items and give your responses, as I have done below. I have provided a full example in red below, to help you grasp what I am looking for here.

Please note that the responses you provide in RP 3 may change or alter as you read and think more about your topic and begin drafting your essay 3 – this is perfectly fine! You will have another 3 weeks before draft 1 of Essay 3 is due.

Specs: RP 3 should be about 1.5 pages, (see how mine below is about that long). MLA heading required, but beyond that, no MLA formatting required, as this is just an initial document to work out your ideas. See schedule of assignments for proper due date.

A. Topic: *give your topic in a few words (no full sentence required)*

Ups and Downs of the 2-party political system (Democrat & Republican) in America

B. Main Question: *Try to form a question that you will be answering throughout your whole essay.*

How does our current 2-party system both hurt and help our quest for democracy in America? Might there be a more productive and peaceful way of approaching issues?

C. Initial Response: *This is your quick reply to your main question. You must have an opinion if you chose this topic/question, so give that opinion here. Not meant to be a formal thesis statement yet!*

While it is good to have more than one ruling party, the emphasis on the 2 parties largely serves to split and alienate members of the general population from each other. Many people identify as either Democrat or Republican, and therefore do not listen to

or respect the other party's views or solutions. We see our leaders argue and attack one another constantly, which then trickles down to us as well, and we do the same thing; you can see this on social media for sure. Perhaps a presidential committee made up of people from both (and other) parties would be the best way to help unify our nation more.

D. Counterargument: *Here you should list a couple things people might say in objection to your initial response. Best to deal with these in your essay rather than show your audience you are ignoring them.*

One way in which people might object to my initial response is that part of what makes America great is that we *can* disagree with others, which could lead to better approaches or solutions to problems. People might also say that if there was a presidential committee instead of a single president, then they would not be able to agree on anything anyway...

E. Appeal to Logic: *Here you should list some types of arguments you think will appeal to people's sense of logic and understanding.*

It makes sense that if our leaders do not display acceptance and understanding of each other, then our people will not either. There can't be just 2 ways to look at problems. The same can be said for race & racial issues in our country: the more we think of people as "black or white" the more we focus on that one difference (skin color) and tell ourselves that we must then differ in everything...

F. Appeal to Emotion: *Here you should list some ways you might try to invoke some emotion from people, which might help to convince them to "buy" your overall claim.*

This system takes away from our freedom; it makes us settle for one side or the other. Do our leaders really think we are all so limited that we cannot see the middle ground between the two polar sides? Ever have someone immediately smirk at you and stop listening to your view simply because they identify with the other political camp? How many friends of yours do you get angry at when you read their politically-driven posts?

G. Kairos/Timing: *Here you will explain why your topic/issue needs to be addressed right now. Perhaps an example of the issue being debated or in the news currently.*

This essay would be very timely right now, given the polarity in everything we see in the news or social media. Everything that happens, even a pandemic like Covid-19, takes on a narrative of how one party reacts vs. how the other reacts. Now is a great time to make people think about how the strict red & blue narrative keeps us fighting or bickering while we should be coming up with solutions to the problem.