

Rhetorical Situation Worksheet

Your name:

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Completing this worksheet may take more time than you think. It's worth the time. The information you gather will help you later when writing up assignments. But more importantly, the process of addressing each of the questions below will slowly work to change *how* you read texts. Keep in mind that some answers will not be obvious or even observable in the text, and so you may have to do some critical thinking and, at times, even some online research. Use full sentences. Take as much space as you need.

Context & Exigence: What topic/conversation is this text responding to? What year is the text published? What is the exigence--that is, what motivating occasion/issue/concern prompted the writing? The motivating occasion could be a current or historical event, a crisis, pending legislation, a recently published alternative view, or another ongoing problem.

The text is responding to the challenges of growing up with a parent that speaks very little English or has a different primary language. The main concern in the writing is discrimination towards those who speak anything besides the common English as their first learned language and this concern stimulates from seeing the way her mother was treated.

Author: Who is the author of this text? What are the author's credentials and what is their investment in the issue?

The author of this specific text is Amy Tan. Amy is a bilingual child who comes from immigrant parents that fled their origin place of birth, China, during the Chinese Revolution in the late 40s. Being that Amy was born in the states, she tried to escape her Chinese background but later realized how much her origin made her who she was. Growing up she saw how broken her mother's English was and was very ashamed of her imperfections and saw how differently her mother was treated due to her lack of common communication.

Text: What can you find out about the publication? What is the genre of the text (e.g., poem, personal essay, essay, news/academic article, blog, textbook chapter, etc.)? How do the conventions of that genre help determine the depth, complexity, and even appearance of the argument? What information about the publication or source (magazine, newspaper, advocacy Web site) helps explain the writer's perspective or the structure and style of the argument?

The genre of the text is nonfiction narrative. Being that this is a nonfiction narrative it gives the text a deeper meaning and gives the argument a more meaningful view because this is not a story with opinions, this is actual life events.

Audience: Who is the author's intended audience? What can you infer about the audience (think about beliefs and political association but also age, class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, profession, education, geographic location, religion, etc.)? Look for clues from the text (especially the original publication) to support your inference.

The author's intended audience are those who come from different cultural backgrounds and/or people who were born in the states where one language is dominated over the other, but have parents or relatives that have a different primary language. The people who may be ashamed of their own or family differences.

Purpose: What is the author trying to accomplish? To persuade, entertain, inform, educate, call to action, shock? How do you know?

Amy Tan is trying to call attention to those who judge the people who are considered 'different' because they speak a different language, don't look like the common standards of society, or come from different background. She once was one of those people. She judged her mom due to her broken English instead of educating her or learning from her.

Argument: What do you believe is the main claim/idea/argument that the author is trying to communicate? What stance does s/he take?

In my opinion, the message the author, Amy, is giving off is deeper than just knowing and embracing where you come from. She is telling her targeted audience to not to be so quick to judge someone based on their differences & to those who are ashamed of them, embrace it.

Evidence: How is the argument supported? Types of support include reasons and logical explanations as well as evidence. Types of evidence include anecdotes, examples, hypothetical situations, (expert) testimony, quotes, citing sources, statistics, charts/graphs, research the author or another source conducts, scientific or other facts, general knowledge, historical references, metaphors/analogies, etc.

Rhetorical Strategies: What aspects of this text stand out for you as a *rhetorical* reader? In other words, what do you observe about what the author strategically *does* (consciously or not) in hopes of appealing to their audience? List here as many observations as you can make about what the text *does*.

The aspects that stand out to me in the text is how Amy speak about the difficulty her mom has speaking English.

Citation: Add the correct MLA or APA bibliographic entry for this text. Use easybib.com if you prefer.

Notes: What do you want to remember about this text?

Something that I want to remember from the text is how Amy speak about her mom and speaking English.