Texts as Tools

**Pre-Reading**

1. When and where was this article published? Who wrote it? What can you tell from this information?
2. What do you think this article will discuss?
3. What do you think the writer wants you to believe?
4. What ideas do you think the writer will attempt to present?
5. Turn the title into a question for you to answer after you have read the article.

**Post-Reading**

1. Were your predictions true?
2. Were you persuaded? If so, how?
3. Were you surprised?
4. Can you answer the question you created from the title?

**Outlining the Argument**

1. Draw a line across the page where the introduction ends.
2. Draw a line across the page where the conclusion begins
3. Draw lines throughout the text that break the text into meaningful segments
4. Then, for each of your segments, label in the left margin its content (what it says)
5. In the right hand margin label the rhetorical purpose of each segment (why the writer included it in the essay)

**Rereading the text (analyzing utility)**

1. Record the essays thesis.
2. State the thesis as a question.
3. Highlight the details throughout the essay that directly answer the question you have written

**Rhetorical Analysis**

**Logos**

1. What are two major claims the author makes in this essay?
2. What support does the author provide for these assertions?
3. Can you think of counterarguments the author does not address?
4. Do you think the author has left something out on purpose? Why?

**Ethos**

1. Does this author have the right background to speak with authority on this subject?
2. What does the author’s style and language tell you about him?
3. Do you trust the author? Are they being deceptive? Can they be taken seriously? Explain.

**Pathos**

1. Does this piece affect you emotionally?
2. Circle the 5 most highly charged emotional words in the article. What effect do they have on you?
3. Do you think the author is trying to manipulate readers’ emotions? How?
4. Do your emotions conflict with the logical interpretation of the article
5. Does the author use humor? How does that affect your acceptance of the author’s ideas