

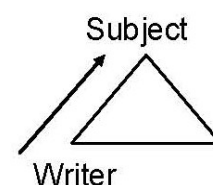
# Rhetoric - 1

# Rhetorical Triangle

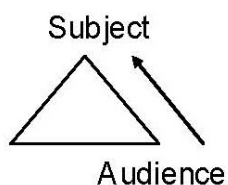
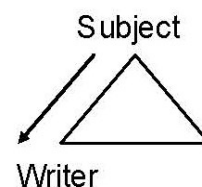
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The rhetorical triangle is a theoretical tool that can help you think about important aspects of any writing project. It attempts to provide a visual that illustrates the relationships between writer, audience, and subject. The information on this handout is adapted from material in the 2nd custom edition of *The Longwood Guide to Writing*, by Ronald F. Lunsford and Bill Bridges.

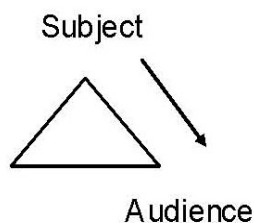
1) The writer of an academic paper should approach the subject with a high level of integrity and, usually, objectivity. Research the subject thoroughly to ensure that you know what you should and can speak with authority.



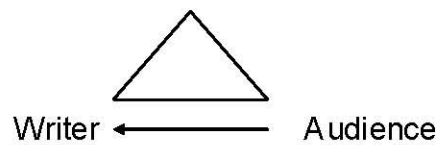
2) Be aware of how a given subject affects you as a person. It can be satisfying and valuable to approach issues that you find personally meaningful, but be sure to maintain the appropriate tone and approach.



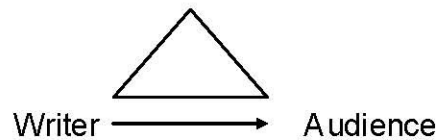
3) Your audience will approach the topic and content of your paper with their own biases, knowledge sets, and expectations. The best thing you can do to influence their experience with the material is to consider number 4 below.



4) Obviously, the success of your paper hinges substantially on the degree to which you communicate your ideas about the subject. Organization, grammaticality, thesis statements, topic sentences, etc. can help you get through to your audience. Also, carefully identify the audience for your paper.



5) The audience is going to respond to you, but you probably will not be around to see it. See number 6 for your end of this.



6) Who you are on the page affects your audience's experience with your paper. Strive for a strong academic voice and let your quality research and clean presentation establish your integrity.