

Paper #2 Rhetorical Analysis

For this paper, you will be doing a rhetorical analysis of Peter Hessler's article, "The Uranium Widows," in The New Yorker, September 13, 2010, 30-37. The first draft of paper 2 does not necessarily have to "look" like an essay; you will be analyzing various aspect of Hessler's article in a series of paragraphs.

1. Analysis of The New Yorker style: at this point, you have at least 4 issues of the magazine. Looking at all of them, what do the physical attributes (cover, article layout, ads, cartoons, typography, use of color, etc—lemon!!) suggest about the magazine's mission, editorial expectations, and target audience?
2. Author credentials: investigate Hessler's background and track record (Hint: remember FP #3) and summarize them in several paragraphs. What do your findings suggest about Hessler's credibility and "worthiness" to be published in The New Yorker?
3. What is the **topic** of the article?
4. What is Hessler's **thesis**? Is it implicit or is it explicitly stated? If it is explicit, where is it stated?
5. How is the article organized—what is its overall structure? (Hint: the physical layout will help you answer this question.) Describe in detail each section topic.
6. What is the structure of Hessler's argument?
7. What is your assessment of the photograph Hessler has submitted with his article? What does it add to his essay? Comparing it to the visual images that accompany other articles, is it appropriate to The New Yorker style?
8. Gather some basic information on Hessler's topic (Hint: FP #3). Assess Hessler's own research and accuracy.
9. Describe Hessler's writing style—its level of formality, paragraphing, sentence structure, vocabulary level.
10. Describe your reading experience of Hessler's article. How informative was it? How did he keep your interest? How persuasive was he?

11. In the end, considering your assessment of the magazine and the topic, why did the magazine's editors decide to publish it?