

Essay Suggestions

1. Truman Capote created a new literary genre with *In Cold Blood*. It is the first nonfiction novel. How does Capote utilize rhetorical strategies to provide the reader with the experience of reading a novel, rather than just a straightforward nonfiction text?
2. How does Capote use ethos, pathos, or logos in order to persuade the reader? What is his overall message that he wants the reader to accept? What specific techniques does he use to persuade the reader? Is he successful?
3. Consider Capote's voice in the narrative. Voice is the unique nature of an author's writing. (What person is it written in? Is he objective or subjective?) How does the voice used affect the book as whole?
4. Which rhetorical devices does Capote use to create suspense in a book that really should not be suspenseful?
5. What tones are employed throughout, and which rhetorical devices are used to establish these tones?
6. Analyze the rhetorical techniques of *In Cold Blood* (using the SOAPSTone technique, style, figurative language, persuasive appeals, etc) examining what Capote uses to deliver the book's messages. Support your analysis with direct quotes from the text.
7. Passage Analysis----Carefully read the opening paragraphs of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* and write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the author characterizes Holcomb, Kansas. Consider such stylistic elements as diction, imagery, detail, language, syntax, structure, tone, and overall style.
8. Rhetorical Analysis of *In Cold Blood*
 - 1) Select 3 passages from *In Cold Blood* for analysis. Each passage must be from a different chapter of the book. You should select passages that capture the central arguments of the chapters, or that relate to the overall argument Capote presents in the text.

2) Type up each passage in its entirety. Cite the appropriate page numbers in MLA format. If you need help with MLA, refer to: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

3) Write a 1-page rhetorical analysis of each passage (see next page for a sample analysis). You will write 3 analyses in total. In each analysis, make sure to:

- **Introduce the argument (2-3 sentences):** Briefly summarize the argument being presented in the passage, and explain how this passage relates to the argument of the chapter or the book as a whole.
- **Analyze the impact of form, content, and style.** Using what you have learned about logos, pathos, and ethos, analyze how Capote makes his argument or achieves his desired effect in this passage. Go beyond simply identifying logos, pathos, and ethos; discuss how these appeals are accomplished (analyzing individual words, phrases, and structural choices), why Capote may have made these rhetorical choices, and what effects these choices have on readers.

In each analysis, you must integrate and cite at least two examples from your selected passage, using MLA format.

Terms:

Syntax (sentence structure)

Figurative Language (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, allusion, irony, etc)

Diction (Choice of words, speech: colloquial, formal, etc)

Point of view (first-person, third-person, etc)

Tone (the attitude of the author toward the subject such as humorous, serious, grave, etc.)