

S M E L L

Rhetoric is the art of using words to persuade in writing or in speaking. All types of writing—fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry—seek to persuade. Students need to be able to analyze an assertion and determine its validity. The acronym SMELL will help students remember the five questions to use when analyzing rhetoric.

Title:

Author:

Year of Publication:

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S peaker- Audience relationship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is the speaker? 2. What <i>authority</i> does the speaker or author have on the subject? (Why should we listen to him/her?) 3. Who is the audience (Who are the images and language meant to appeal to?) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
M ain Idea	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Main Idea (thesis) of the text? 2. List some of the claims (if argument) or plot details (if fiction). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.
E ffect	What <i>effect</i> is the author trying to convey (what is his <i>purpose</i> ?)	
L ogic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What <i>logic</i> is the author using (specific data and warranting)? 2. How does the logic (or the lack of it) affect the MAIN IDEA or EFFECT?? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.
L anguage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What powerful words and phrases does the author use to reach his or her audience and achieve his or her EFFECT? 2. What types of language and writing style does the author use in trying to reach his audience. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.