Tips for Rhetorical Analysis

Take what you know about literary analysis & move one step further. Read and get uber-familiar with the text in question. Annotate as you analyze to build evidence for the points you will make. Develop a main claim (what's the message?) and use evidence (the examples & explanations) to "argue" your points to the reader.

Some reminders:

1) Rhetoric has many definitions, but broadly it is the use of language to convey meaning.
2) Rather than focusing on just the content of the text, keep the writer's moves in mind. How did he/she do whatever you are asserting he/she did?
3) An analysis looks at a work in a concentrated way, beginning with a theory or assumption, zooming in to prove it with detailed evidence and well-drawn conclusions, and zooming out to establish a "big picture" of why it even matters.
4) Choose a few places to zero in. In just a couple of pages, you can't do it all.

TECH and QUOTING TIPS

- Put song, poem, or article titles in quotation marks & italicize the titles of albums/EPs, books, or bigger publications like magazines, websites, or databases.
- Place any direct quotes from the source in quotation marks. Be sure they are word for word unless you are using brackets [ ] to indicate you have altered parts of them in some way.
- Work to integrate them smoothly into sentences with tags that connect them to what you are writing or that establish who is being quoted or in what circumstance/context.
- If you are using multiple sources, you'll need to use MLA in-text citation with your quotes in the form of (Authorlastname #). Use the last name of the author, then a space, then the numeral of the page # on which the quote can be found. All goes inside parentheses and the end punctuation for the sentence (if it's at the end) is held until *after* the closing parenthesis.
- If you are using only ONE source but it is lengthy—has many pages or is inside a larger compiled source—you'll only need (#). This includes just the page number referenced with, again, end punctuation held until *after*.
- If you are using only ONE short source, this step of in-text citation is unnecessary since all quotes can be found within one short document.

- If you are quoting from poetry/lyrics, you'll need to use the / to indicate a line break when you integrate a quote into your text that is longer than one line, but shorter than four lines.
- If you quote four lines or more at one time, you'll leave them written in poetic lines and indent the whole block one tab. (Highlight the lines and then press the tab key one time).
- In ALL instances you will need a "Work(s) Cited" page to list sources you cited in the paper itself.
- Use the Insert – Page Break function to start your works cited page on a new page.
- Center the title "Work or Works Cited" at the top. ("Works Cited" if citing multiple works and "Work Cited" if only citing one.)
- Use the Purdue OWL for reference and its citation wizard to help you formulate consistent works cited entries.
- Use a hanging indent for all entries, keeping them in alphabetical order. (Choose this under Home – paragraph dropdown – indentation: special.)

And a reminder – in the discipline of English, keep verbs present tense for events happening within a work and regarding the actions or writings of the author. Unlike history, where the past is the past, events happen anew each time you read/listen to/watch them.