

**Kristopher Purzycki**  
**English 101/102/201**

**Assignment:** "Rhetoric of Architecture"

**Digital Humanities tool/method:** Mobile devices/smartphones

**Description:** For this in-class activity, first-year students in my Academic Writing Strategies course were asked to think about architecture as a form of rhetoric. Although we usually think of composition in terms of language and writing, this activity helps reinforce fundamental rhetorical concepts by looking at how they are embodied beyond verbal language. It also serves to introduce ways of seeing the world to observe the everyday as a method of finding interesting and novel research ideas.

In small groups, students are assigned one of several buildings located nearby on campus. They were then sent out to take pictures using one group member's smartphone. The pictures could be of anything but should include: the exterior façade, a distinct interior space, a sign or poster posted somewhere in the interior, and an activity taking place inside. Additionally, students were encouraged to take pictures of anything unusual such as repetitive patterns or odd encounters that seemed out of place.

Students returned with 15-20 minutes left in the class to share their findings. After emailed the images to me, I presented them as a slide show and asked each group to describe the image, why they took it, and how what was depicted in that image spoke to a rhetorical quality of that building. Groups were then asked to describe the feeling of being in that space and consider the affect produced by the structures and activities in and around each building.

**Learning outcomes:**

- Better comprehension of fundamental rhetorical concepts
- Consideration of the ways structure and form influence meaning
- Understanding of languages beyond the verbal
- Opportunity to get out of the classroom and explore the campus
- Practice in observing the everyday

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**English 101/102/201**

**Assignment:** "Microblogging and Multimodal Composition"

**Digital Humanities tool/method:** Mobile devices/smartphones

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Sample mobile blog: <http://milwaukeeethaw.tumblr.com/>