**State of the Student**

*Please answer the following questions in a reflection section of your writer’s notebook.*

1. **Columnist:**
   1. Do you understand a writer’s claim? (Look at Part 1 of your four Columnist Precis).
      1. What are your scores for part 1?
      2. How are you doing with understanding a writer’s argument?
      3. What is your plan to improve your grade? (These assignments can still be made up using current [from the week you are writing] columns.)
      4. If you have not scored 1 point for each claim section, what is your plan to improve this skill?

**Why important? If you misunderstand the writer’s claim on the Rhetorical Analysis in-class write, the best score you can receive is 2/9. Also, it is important that you understand what you are reading on difficult texts.**

* 1. Can you articulate what the writer is DOING in a piece? (Look at Part 2 of your four Columnist Precis - first, then, toward the end.)
     1. What are your scores for part 2?
     2. How are you doing with analysis – what a writer is DOING?
     3. What is your plan to improve your grade? (These assignments can still be made up using current [from the week you are writing] columns.)
     4. If you have not scored 2 points for each claim section, what is your plan to improve this skill?

**Why important? If you cannot articulate what the writer is DOING, you may be stuck in summary. On the Rhetorical analysis in-class write, the best score a summary can receive is 2/9.**

* 1. Do you understand the author’s purpose for the audience? (Look at the last part of your four Columnist Precis.) What is your plan to improve this skill?
     1. What are your scores for part 3?
     2. Are you articulating what the author wants the audience to think/do as a result of the piece?
     3. What is your plan to improve this skill? (

**Why Important? The analysis portion of the Rhetorical Analysis essay requires that you link rhetorical devices with author’s purpose for the audience. Scores of 5 or better indicate an ability to articulate author’s purpose.**

**Recommended for everyone: Continue reading columns as a way of staying abreast of what’s being talked about. When you write an argument, it is assumed that you are reading periodicals and newspapers.**

1. **Argument**
   1. **Make specific notes about your successes in your Argument.**
   2. **Set specific goals for your next Argument In Class Write.**