**Says/Does/Because Analysis**

**Abraham Lincoln, “The Gettsyburg Address”**

(Gettysburg, Pennsylvania November 19, 1863)

*Rhetorical analysis involves observing what the text does as well as what it says.*

*Says/does/because analysis involves observing and commenting on the differences between the content (says), the form and function (does), and the purpose (because).*

*This is all related to a central thesis – both for you when you write, and for other writers we are reading.*

**Says** statements summarize the content of a text – what it **says**

**Does** statements describe the text’s techniques, with as little reference to content as possible – what it **does**

**Because** statements discuss the writer’s purpose in employing those techniques – **why** he/she does it (to what effect).

Says statements – summaries – are fairly easy; you’ve done those before.

Does/Because statements are harder because they require close observation and analysis – *but they are the meat of rhetorical analysis.* They require you to **observe** the rhetorical techniques – and **analyze** their intended effect.

**Ask yourself:**

What is my (or the author’s) claim (and/or what’s my aim?)

What am I (is he or she) doing to get it across to my (his or her) audience? (**What a text might “do”?)**

Key words:

Describes

States a proposition

Narrates

Provides history

Lists

Categorizes

Itemizes

Predicts

Explains

Makes a generalization

Compares

Traces

Illustrates

Provides an example

Evaluates

Synthesizes

Cites

Elaborates

Exemplifies

Deepens

Develops

Offers a hypothesis

Supports

Contrasts

A Says/Does/Because analysis is a valuable paragraph-by-paragraph outline, useful both for **your own** writing and for the writing of others you are analyzing.

***When you write or outline your own essays, complete a says/does/because analysis:***

Do your essay paragraphs include all 3 parts?

Is your “says” part the briefest – *by far*?

Do your “does” and “because” statements include not just the rhetorical techniques, but their intended effect?

Do you use ample examples from the text to support your assertions?

***When you complete a says/does/because analysis of someone else’s work:***

Is your “says” part the briefest – *by far*?

Do your “does” and “because” statements include not just the rhetorical techniques, but also their intended effect?

Do you use ample examples from the text to support your assertions?

TEXT ACTIVITY:

*"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."*

Says analysis:

Does analysis:

Because analysis:

*"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."*

Says analysis:

Does analysis:

Because analysis:

*"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."*

Says analysis:

Does analysis:

Because analysis:

*"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."*

Says analysis:

Does analysis:

Because analysis: