**Essay Assignment: The Rhetorical Analysis**

*A Time to Kill*

**Your Job:**

Write a five paragraph rhetorical analysis to describe how Jake Brigance (Matthew McConaughey) effectively utilizes **1) ethos, logos, and pathos**; and **2) rhetorical devices** (refer to handout) in his final summation to persuade jurors of his client’s innocence. Include evidence and details from the speech to support your analysis.

**Organization:**

Introduction Paragraph

1. Introduce your topic in an interesting way to hook your reader.
   1. Example: *Rhetoric has plenty of purposes within; it can be used to sell, to recruit, to persuade, or, as is seen in the case of A Time to Kill’s Jake Brigance, rhetoric can even be used to save lives.*
2. Identify the text (name of the film) along with the rhetorical situation (the speaker, his purpose, his audience, the context).
3. Provide the thesis of your paper.
   1. Example, *Jake Brigance makes effective appeals to ethos, logos, and pathos in order to successfully persuade jurors of his client’s innocence.*

Body Paragraphs (x3)

1. Give your analysis in chronological order, as it is presented in the text. This means that you will provide an analysis of strategies used at the beginning, middle, and end of the speech.
2. **Include a topic sentence:**
   * Identify which section of the text (beginning, middle, or end) you are discussing and the main idea of that section.
   * Example: *Jake Brigance first begins his summation by making appeals to ethos.*
3. **Describe the language used by the speaker:**
   * Here you give a description of what the speaker says.
   * Include a quote from the speech to provide direct language used by the speaker. Example: *He explains that…*
4. **Explain how the speaker’s language helps to achieve his purpose**.

* Example: *By saying this…*

Conclusion Paragraph

1. Restate your thesis & summarize your key points
2. Give a final evaluation how well or poorly Brigance uses the rhetorical triangle to achieve his purpose

**Transition Words:**

Transition words increase the flow of your writing, 1) making it sound polished, rhythmic, and intelligent, and 2) making it easier for your reader to understand your ideas. Use transition words throughout your analysis to help you move chronologically through the text.

**Formatting:**

Your analysis should be typed following MLA guidelines. Please check these off prior to hand-in.

* Your name, your teacher’s name, the course name, and the date is typed in the top, left corner
* Your essay’s title includes the topic and name of text(s) studied (in the same font & size as body)
* You’ve used Times New Roman font, size 12, throughout
* The entire essay is double-spaced
* There are 1-inch (2.54 cm) margins, all around
* All paragraphs are indented (1 tab stop)
* Page numbers are in the upper, right-hand corner
* All titles are italicized
* First-person perspective has NOT been used (I, me, we, us, our)

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| **Rhetorical Strategy** | **Description of language used by the speaker** | **How it helps the speaker achieve his purpose** |
| **Ethos**  *Paragraph 1 of speech* |  |  |
| **Logos**  *Paragraph 2 of speech* |  |  |
| **Pathos**  *Paragraph 3 of speech* |  |  |