SYNOPSISES

*Thank You For Arguing* covers the core rhetorical teachings of Aristotle and Cicero, but Heinrichs does it entirely using modern examples, drawing on political, marketing, workplace, and cultural references, as well as his own family arguments. One paragraph discusses Socrates; the next discusses Sherlock Holmes. The balance between formal lessons and practical examples makes the book highly valuable and applicable to everyday speaking and writing.

Among other things, you will learn:
- A deeper understanding of ethos, pathos, and logos
- Many figures of speech
- How to recognize strong and weak logical arguments
- How to recognize (and use, or defend against) persuasive techniques
- How to construct a persuasive language in speaking and writing

*Generation Me*

We live in a time when high self-esteem is encouraged from childhood, when young people have more freedom and independence than ever, but also far more depression, anxiety, cynicism, and loneliness. Today's young people have been raised to aim for the stars at a time when it is more difficult than ever to get into college, find a good job, and afford a house. Their expectations are very high just as the world is becoming more competitive, so there's a huge clash between their expectations and reality. More than any other generation in history, the children of Baby Boomers are disappointed by what they find when they arrive at adulthood. *Generation Me* will give Boomers new insight into their offspring, and help those in their teens, twenties, and thirties finally make sense of their generation.

RATIONALE

AP Language and Composition centralizes the study of the analytical reading and the both spoken and written application of rhetoric. What is rhetoric you might ask? Good question! And one that we will continue to address throughout the course of this upcoming year! Often times, people tend to view rhetoric simply as a writer or speaker's ability to persuade their audience. But, rhetoric is this and so much more. It is a power over language that - if one possesses - can allow that writer or speaker to win over an intended audience in almost any situation. The purpose of this summer reading assignment is to introduce some fundamental rhetorical terms in a fun way. Also, the assignment aims to spark your critical reading and thinking skills with two mesmerizing and relatable texts.
ASSIGNMENT

1. Read Jay Heinrichs', *Thank You For Arguing*, **FIRST**. Heinrichs’ text enlightens the novice rhetorician about the strategies and techniques involved when creating and sustaining an argument. This is your copy – I expect to see book annotations, highlighting, etc. when you return in the fall. We may refer to this text throughout the year.

2. Read Jean M. Twenge’s, *Generation Me*, **SECOND**. As you read, pay close attention to rhetorical strategies (introduced by Heinrichs) that Twenge uses to develop an argument that analyzes generational gaps and proposes how to accept our differences. Once again, this copy is yours, and you are expected to highlight and annotate in the margins.

3. **THIRD**: Read each of the following prompts carefully – each offers multiple questions for extended response. **Out of the 10 questions available, chose 5 questions to provide extended responses for.** Generate a ½ page response for each question. All responses must be typed, MLA format (see below). Your responses should include both a reflection of the reading, and personal insight that develops the responses further. This means that you are expected to include quotes from the text in some of your answers.

**QUESTIONS**

**Chapter 1**

1. Educational institutions have largely moved pedagogical strategies that are instructive to constructivist approaches. Twenge says that "Classrooms are becoming increasingly structured for teachers to be "facilitators" rather than authority figures. Lecturing is frowned upon; "collaborative learning" is in. Class presentations and group projects are common. Sometimes the teacher hardly says anything" (p.29). Do teachers do their students a disservice if they apply such a radically constructivist approach to classroom study? Support your answer with examples from your personal experience.

2. The idea of "making a good impression" and "eliciting the approval of others" are values that are largely rejected in Generation Me. Twenge suggests that "most etiquette was developed to provide something often lacking in modern society: respect for other people’s comfort" (p.26). Do you believe there is importance of having "rules of etiquette" in our society? Why? Explain and support your answer.
Chapter 2
3. One of the philosophical implications of the self-esteem movement was to "make kids feel good about themselves' rather than speaking of achievement, ideals, goals, character, or decency" (p.64). At what point does the need to make a student 'feel good' get in the way of truly preparing people for the future? (see on p.64 the "Kids who are given meaningless As..." quote) Support your answer.

4. "['Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all' - Whitney Houston] ...is a stunning reversal in attitude from previous generations. Back then, respect for others was more important than respect for yourself. The term "self-esteem" wasn't widely used until the late 1960s, and didn't become talk-show and dinner-table conversation until the 1980s. By the 1990s, it was everywhere" (p.44)."Generation Me had no need to reincarnate ourselves; we were born into a world that already celebrated the individual. The self-focus that blossomed in the 1970s became mundane and commonplace over the next two decades, and GenMe accepts it like a fish accepts water" (p.49). Do you think people are less respectful in general because of this shift in thinking? Support your answer.

Chapter 3
5. This chapter addresses the socially constructed idea that everyone in America can have what Andy Warhol referred to as their "15 minutes of fame." Is it possible that we are fueling dreams so much in this generation that there is an absence of reality in their lives? Can this create a delusional state of mind? Discuss an example to support your answer.

Chapter 4
6. Twenge states that "we're malnourished from eating a junk-food diet of instant messages, e-mail, and phone calls, rather than the healthy food of live, in-person interaction" (p.110). Do you believe technology has enhanced socialization, impaired it or both? Explain. In what ways can authentic community be fostered to help nourish the need for relationship that this generation has?

Chapter 5
7. Twenge suggests that there is a rapid growth in civic disengagement (p.141f.). She later suggests that this is a coping skill that is part of living in an information age where we are continuously bombarded with junk information (p.141-146). Is it possible that living with so much information has dulled discernment between good and bad information and fueled a culture of apathy?

Chapter 6
8. According to this chapter, Twenge suggests that there is an increased comfortability with conversation about sexuality among Generation Me. Along with this has emerged a redefinition of the moral boundaries defined by previous generations. In what ways has this openness affected today's youth? Explain.
Chapter 7

9. It is interesting that Twenge follows a common pattern and groups ethnicity, gender and sexuality as parallel civil rights issues. Does it seem that there is a difference between generations' perceptions of these issues? Discuss and justify your answer with examples from your own experience.

Chapter 8

10. "And what will GenMe's children be like? This is not as futuristic of a question as it sounds - first-wave Some GenMe'ers are already in the prime child-rearing years of 25 to 35. It is difficult to tell right now if GenMe is adopting the same child-rearing approach as their parents, but it appears that they are. As a result, the next generation may be even more self-focused" (p.215). Discuss two major generational differences between you and your parents. Also, make a prediction about what your children (or your children's generation) will be like.

Requirements

☑ Must be typed (include the question # with each response)
☑ MLA format
☑ 1"inch margins
☑ 12 point font
☑ Times New Roman
☑ Double-spaced
☑ Include a title
☑ Heading in upper left hand corner
☑ Running header (Last name, page #) in upper right hand corner of each page

Assessment

• There will be 100 point exam over Thank You For Arguing the first week of the fall semester. Heinrichs introduces an overwhelming amount of rhetorical vocabulary throughout the text and in the margins. Read and absorb this information. But, know that you do not need to know all of these terms for the exam? However, you should study and know the main vocabulary central to each chapter focus.
• Generation Me written responses will be 100 points total and will count as the first formal grade you will receive towards your Writer's Portfolio. AP Language & Composition is a writing intensified course. Your written responses will give your teacher, Mrs. Keller, a clearer picture of who each of you are as a writer. You don't want your first impression to be a bad one! So, please put forth your best effort on this assignment! 😊

Should you have any questions or concerns about the AP Summer Reading Assignment, feel free to e-mail Mrs. Keller at jkeller@d220.org over the summer.