

English Portfolio Entry Slip

Student name: _____ Entry Date: 3-22-06

Teacher: _____ Grade Level: 11

Class: AP Language Date of Assignment: 3-14-06

GLE #: 1.2

GLE Text: Use voice, word choice, and sentence fluency for intended style and audience.

Assessment: How well did I meet the GLE?

Beginning Approaching Meeting **Exceeding**

How do I know what level I am at? (Rubric)

On the rubric it said that four internal citations were required, and I supplied six.

Purpose: What new things did I learn, or what skills/knowledge did I improve by completing this assignment?

I learned more about the rhetorical strategies and literary devices used by my columnist.

Connection: Why am I learning these skills or reviewing this information?

I am learning these skills (developing voice, word choice, and sentence fluency) to improve the style of my writing.

Application: How will I use these skills and /or information in the future: school, personal life, and /or careers?

I will use these skills on the AP Exam and in future English classes.

Evaluation: What did I do well on this assignment? If I were to do this again what would I do differently?

I did well on varying my sentence structure throughout this essay. If I were to do this again, I would add more commentary and analysis.

March 14, 2006
AP Language
Period 3
Columnist Essay

If you are a fan of smoothies, you know when one is not up to par. Too many berries, or not enough banana can ruin a usually tantalizing drink. Like a savorous smoothie, Steve Chapman's editorials have the perfect blend of ingredients. If one of Chapman's columns were a smoothie, it would be just right: not too sweet, not too sour, not too opinionated, and not too boring. While a perfect smoothie is a treat for the taste buds, Chapman's columns are a treat for the mind. While Chapman frequently appeals to logic throughout his articles, he balances this with the use of imagery, Rogerian argument, analogy, and simile.

Chapman does not keep to one arena of subjects, and the variety is appealing. Steve Chapman's first two articles deal with the United States and politics within the country. His last four columns revolve around Europe, specifically Germany. Because Chapman moved to Germany for six weeks, the subject matter of his columns veered towards a more global outlook. However, Chapman's European articles are not tied to one specific topic. He mixes it up by writing about foreign affairs, European population, European Muslims, and war views. This strategy entices readers to follow the column each week, because there is no monotony in Chapman's topics.

In nearly every column that Steve Chapman writes, he appeals to logic. Usually through statistics, Chapman's logical appeals help establish a straightforward, objective tone that is prevalent in his articles. While the price tag of \$2 trillion of Bush's war (Chapman, 1/22/06) sends the message that Bush is not very popular with the American

public, a 2002 poll (Chapman, 1/29/06) leads readers to the same conclusion, but about Germans. However, Chapman compensates for his heavy reliance on logical content by employing imagery, analogy, and simile.

Painting an image in a reader's mind is one of Chapman's ways to consummate his argument. By stating that "Europe is drawing closer, while Atlantic is getting wider" (Chapman 1/29/06) the readers see that while the U.S. and Germany are renewing their relations, they will never be as strong as those in Europe. With imagery, Chapman uses analogy to further his point. When he says that calling a "decline in population 'suicide' is like referring to a diet as 'starvation'" (Chapman 2/5/06) he proves that Europe is not committing demographic suicide. The use of imagery and analogy add interest to Chapman's already admirable editorials.

Chapman is never too heavily opinionated, and is a master of the Rogerian argument. He explains the war views of Germany, a country that favors treaties, and the U.S., the proverbial "man with a hammer who sees every international dispute as a nail", and then asserts that a compromise between the extremist standpoints is the best option (Chapman 2/19/06). In an article about European Muslims, Chapman gives examples of both sides of the issue, thus gaining the readers' trust (Chapman 2/12/06). The Rogerian argument is much like Chapman's writing style: balanced, yet effective.

Steve Chapman uses multitudes of appeals and rhetorical strategies throughout his writing. His style captured my attention, even though I am not the biggest fan of editorials. Chapman's greatest skill is balancing opinion with fact, emotion with logic, and imagery with statistics. He is never too forceful with his opinion, letting his evidence back up his point rather than his voice. I would take one of Chapman's columns along

with a smoothie any day, and would have all I need to survive: nourishment for the body and for the mind.

EXAMPLE