**Rhetorical Analysis Practice**

* Read the piece and then consider the questions below.
* Jot down some point-form ideas/answers to the questions.
* Please complete these questions for homework and bring them to class at the beginning of next week.
1. **Content:** What does the author hope to achieve by sharing their story?
2. Do you think the piece does what the author intended it to do?
3. **Content:** Does the story ever state a thesis, either directly or indirectly?
4. **Content:** How much commentary does the author provide on his/her story?
5. How much is left up to the reader?
6. **Structure/Style:** Comment on the effectiveness of the following:
	1. Length (Sentence, paragraph and full article)
	2. Tone: Does the piece use any humour in dealing with serious issues?
	3. Language: Does the piece use sophisticated language?
7. Explain which persuasive appeals are used in the article.

**What it’s like to win the lottery as a woman**

Opinion by **Samantha Ettus**

November 24, 2017

The Washington Post

*Samantha Ettus is the author of "The Pie Life: A Guilt-Free Recipe for Success and Satisfaction."*

For years as a child, I struggled to make my parents hear me when I told them my tennis coach was crazy. I knew something was wrong with him, but I didn't have the words to describe the icky feeling he gave me inside. At 13, I somehow found the strength to fire him. My parents did not support my decision, so they made me do it myself.

I broke the news to my coach over the phone. A week later, I received a package from him at our apartment in New York. The box contained photos of me, newspaper clippings about my tennis accolades and a long letter. He had crafted the letter carefully, switching colors with every sentence, like a desperate rainbow.

The box was labeled "A friendship package." That afternoon, my mom came into my room to say my coach was on the line. She told me I had to thank him for the package. When I protested, she said: "He just wants to be friends." I will never forget looking at her and saying, "I am 13. I don't need a 45-year-old friend." I packed everything back up in the box and threw it down the garbage chute.

When I was 20, I experienced the greatest (though most painful) validation of my life when this coach, [Gary Wilensky](http://www.nytimes.com/1993/04/27/nyregion/attempted-kidnapping-by-coach-stuns-pupils.html), was exposed as a violent sexual predator. He had tried to kidnap his latest student and take her to a remote cabin he had outfitted as a sex cave, with torture devices and boarded-up windows. Wilensky attacked with a cattle prod, but the victim's mom battled him off her 17-year-old daughter. He killed himself as police chased after him.

When interviewed on television, Wilensky's father would blame his undoing on "the breakup with the Ettus girl." Reporters called my college dorm incessantly.

I was the subject of Wilensky's obsession for years, yet as far as I recall, he never touched me. I keep hoping that I have passed the statute of limitations on memory suppression. Only time will tell, but I have a feeling that I was the lottery winner. A predator had locked onto me, but I escaped without physical harm.

We all have our secret stories, the ones that populate our timelines against our will and stay etched in our memories. During my freshman year at Harvard College, I spent a night with a handsome senior. I was still a virgin and made sure that though our shirts were off, there would be nothing more. He was kissing my chest, but it hurt tremendously, and I kept telling him so. Yet in my inexperience I thought, maybe this is what it's supposed to feel like. In the morning, I woke up covered in yellow bruises. I didn't tell a soul.

Only last year did his name come up again. It was over drinks with a friend who went to his high school, who said she shudders when she thinks of him. "He raped my best friend in high school and she has never fully recovered," she said. I was not penetrated by this predator. I am a lottery winner.

During my sophomore year, I ran into someone who had gone to the same college as my "Club Med boyfriend." This was the boy I spent a week kissing during a family vacation my senior year in high school. When I asked if she knew him, she said, "He was kicked out last year for rape." I am a lottery winner.

The next fall, one of my closest friends was raped by her boyfriend. Two other friends shared their rape stories with me that year, too. In my 20s, the stories continued. It was as though a dam broke and was never repaired. But those are not my stories. You see, I am a lottery winner.

When I was 22, living in the San Francisco suburbs, every morning my boyfriend would drive me to the train before he went off to graduate school. One day a disheveled, middle-age man sat across the aisle and stared at me for the entire 45-minute commute. I ran off the train when we arrived in the city. In the days that followed, I changed cars, but he always reappeared. My boyfriend watched helplessly as the train departed and the creep walked between the cars to find me.

The police said that there was nothing they could do unless the man touched me. They suggested we switch stations, but he still found me again. That was the day I began driving to work. The man stole the train from me, but he never touched me. I was a lottery winner.

In January, a Facebook "friend" whom I had never met began writing me increasingly demeaning and threatening messages. He said he was coming across the country to see me. One minute he said he loved me, the next he called me a pig. On the advice of a private investigator, I ignored him and unfriended him, and he went away. Once again, I am a lottery winner.

Now, I am raising two daughters and a son. What can I do to protect them? There is so much that is out of my control, and theirs. I am working to teach all three to be feminists, to be confident, to know that they can speak out against injustice whenever they see it or experience it. That is what I can give them. That, and a prayer that they will win the lottery, like me.

**I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration**

I work for the president but like-minded colleagues and I have vowed to thwart parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations.

New York Times

Sept. 5, 2018

*[On Oct. 28, 2020, Miles Taylor, who left his position as chief of staff in the Department of Homeland Security,*[*made public his authorship*](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/28/us/politics/miles-taylor-anonymous-trump.html)*of this article. While The Times has a strict policy of protecting its sources, in this case he personally waived our agreement to keep his identity confidential. We can confirm that he is the author.]*

*The Times is taking the rare step of publishing an anonymous Op-Ed essay. We have done so at the request of the author, a senior official in the Trump administration whose identity is known to us and whose job would be jeopardized by its disclosure. We believe publishing this essay anonymously is the only way to deliver an important perspective to our readers.*

[President Trump](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/20/us/politics/victoria-coates-reassigned.html) is facing a test to his presidency unlike any faced by a modern American leader.

It’s not just that the special counsel looms large. Or that the country is bitterly divided over Mr. Trump’s leadership. Or even that his party might well lose the House to an opposition hellbent on his downfall.

The dilemma — which he does not fully grasp — is that many of the senior officials in his own administration are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations.

I would know. I am one of them.

To be clear, ours is not the popular “resistance” of the left. We want the administration to succeed and think that many of its policies have already made America safer and more prosperous.

But we believe our first duty is to this country, and the president continues to act in a manner that is detrimental to the health of our republic.

That is why many Trump appointees have [vowed to do what we can](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/04/us/politics/woodward-trump-book-fear.html?module=Uisil) to preserve our democratic institutions while thwarting Mr. Trump’s more misguided impulses until he is out of office.

The root of the problem is the president’s amorality. Anyone who works with him knows he is not moored to any discernible first principles that guide his decision making.

Although he was elected as a Republican, the president shows little affinity for ideals long espoused by conservatives: free minds, free markets and free people. At best, he has invoked these ideals in scripted settings. At worst, he has attacked them outright.

In addition to his mass-marketing of the notion that the press is the “enemy of the people,” President Trump’s impulses are generally anti-trade and anti-democratic.

Don’t get me wrong. There are bright spots that the near-ceaseless negative coverage of the administration fails to capture: effective deregulation, historic tax reform, a more robust military and more.

But these successes have come despite — not because of — the president’s leadership style, which is impetuous, adversarial, petty and ineffective.

From the White House to executive branch departments and agencies, senior officials will privately admit their daily disbelief at the commander in chief’s comments and actions. Most are working to insulate their operations from his whims.

Meetings with him veer off topic and off the rails, he engages in repetitive rants, and his impulsiveness results in half-baked, ill-informed and occasionally reckless decisions that have to be walked back.

“There is literally no telling whether he might change his mind from one minute to the next,” a top official complained to me recently, exasperated by an Oval Office meeting at which the president flip-flopped on a major policy decision he’d made only a week earlier.

The erratic behavior would be more concerning if it weren’t for unsung heroes in and around the White House. Some of his aides have been cast as villains by the media. But in private, they have gone to great lengths to keep bad decisions contained to the West Wing, though they are clearly not always successful.

It may be cold comfort in this chaotic era, but Americans should know that there are adults in the room. We fully recognize what is happening. And we are trying to do what’s right even when Donald Trump won’t.

The result is a two-track presidency.

Take foreign policy: In public and in private, President Trump shows a preference for autocrats and dictators, such as President Vladimir Putin of Russia and North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, and displays little genuine appreciation for the ties that bind us to allied, like-minded nations.

Astute observers have noted, though, that the rest of the administration is operating on another track, one where countries like Russia are called out for meddling and punished accordingly, and where allies around the world are engaged as peers rather than ridiculed as rivals.

On Russia, for instance, the president was reluctant [to expel](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/26/world/europe/trump-russia-diplomats-expulsion.html) so many of Mr. Putin’s spies as punishment for the poisoning of a former Russian spy in Britain. He complained for weeks about senior staff members letting him get boxed into further confrontation with Russia, and he expressed frustration that the United States continued to impose sanctions on the country for its malign behavior. But his national security team knew better — such actions had to be taken, to hold Moscow accountable.

This isn’t the work of the so-called deep state. It’s the work of the steady state.

Given the instability many witnessed, there were early whispers within the cabinet of invoking the 25th Amendment, which would start a complex process for removing the president. But no one wanted to precipitate a constitutional crisis. So, we will do what we can to steer the administration in the right direction until — one way or another — it’s over.

The bigger concern is not what Mr. Trump has done to the presidency but rather what we as a nation have allowed him to do to us. We have sunk low with him and allowed our discourse to be stripped of civility.

Senator John McCain put it best in his [farewell letter](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/27/us/politics/john-mccain-farewell-statement.html). All Americans should heed his words and break free of the tribalism trap, with the high aim of uniting through our shared values and love of this great nation.

We may no longer have Senator McCain. But we will always have his example — a lodestar for restoring honor to public life and our national dialogue. Mr. Trump may fear such honorable men, but we should revere them.

There is a quiet resistance within the administration of people choosing to put country first. But the real difference will be made by everyday citizens rising above politics, reaching across the aisle and resolving to shed the labels in favor of a single one: Americans.