



# Rhetorical Criticism: Exploration and Practice

*Sonja K. Foss*

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## **Rhetorical Criticism: Exploration and Practice** Sonja K. Foss

Over multiple editions, this transformative text has taught the lively art of rhetorical criticism to thousands of students at more than 300 colleges and universities. Insights from classroom use enrich each new edition. With an unparalleled talent for distilling sophisticated rhetorical concepts and processes, Sonja Foss highlights ten methods of doing rhetorical criticism—the systematic investigation and explanation of symbolic acts and artifacts. Each chapter focuses on one method, its foundational theories, and the steps necessary to perform an analysis using that method. Foss provides instructions on how to write coherent, well-argued reports of analytical findings, which are then illustrated by sample essays. A chapter on feminist criticism features the disruption of conventional ideologies and practices. Storytelling in the digital world is a timely addition to the chapter on narrative criticism. Student essays now include analyses of the same artifact using multiple methods. A deep understanding of rhetorical criticism equips readers to become engaged and active participants in shaping the nature of the worlds in which we live.

## **Rhetorical Criticism: Exploration and Practice Details**

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## Rebecca says

This book describes various methods of rhetorical criticism. I read it in college and I'm the kind of student who reads books from cover to cover even if I'm not required to. Our class had to use a few of the methods to critique speeches, works of art and later I wrote a huge paper critiquing a movie. It was a good class and a thorough book. I must have had an earlier edition.

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## Brian Fitzroy says

This was such a terrible book. I say this despite absolutely loving all things rhetoric. Prof. Foss might know some rhetorical criticism, but she doesn't know how to edit. She used student essays as examples. Why not professionally done essays? Probably because not many people actually trust her skill and knowledge. She had an essay of her own. And man, it was bad! It was academese, had typos, grammatical errors, etc. And she used it (her own work) as an example. Not, no way I can give this more than 1 star. A rhetorical critic she is not. A writer she is not. A professional—no way.

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## Kathryn says

I really liked Foss' simple way of explaining and presenting select methods of rhetorical criticism. Occasionally an example or explanation wasn't clear (some parts of her Metaphoric criticism chapter and some parts of her Pentadic criticism chapter), but overall I think this is a useful read and reference.

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## The Hoffman says

An efficient overview.

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## Emily says

This book is very helpful for understanding communication theories and how to write an analysis using these theories. There are several example essays as well that are helpful.

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## Chad says

Excellent treatment and insightful overview of rhetorical criticism. In this book Foss surveys various methods of criticism (such as metaphor, style, cluster, genre, and ideological criticism), providing a readable

techne for both experienced and inexperienced rhetoricians. Clear and insightful content, useful examples and illustrations.

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