

FIRST ANALYTICAL PAPER

Instructions: Write an original essay analyzing and discussing the traits or characteristics you can surmise of Madison's original audience for Federalist No. 10 (in Heffner) based on Aristotle's observation that "people receive favorably speeches spoken in their own character and by persons like themselves" (p. 152 of the selection in our coursepack).

Length: AT LEAST 4-6 full pages of text, double spaced, following MLA format precisely, plus an accurate Works Cited page. A template is available on the class website, <http://citizen.obenauf.net>. I will not grade any paper that fails to meet these basic expectations, nor will you be permitted to rewrite or resubmit your essay. See the syllabus for more information.

Due: Monday, February 12, 2024, in hard copy at the start of class.

Notes: You should consult your MLA Handbook, The Elements of Style, my template, and my Guide to Writing in your coursepack for clarification on how to meet the basic expectations of formatting and scholarly writing. For example, your introduction should provide just enough context for your reader to understand your thesis and the essay that follows without any other familiarity with the texts or topics you discuss in your paper. Your paper should have a clear, sophisticated thesis at the end of the first paragraph, summing up the main finding of your research. After the introduction, you should avoid summarizing Madison's ideas unless they relate specifically to your discussion of audience; instead, quote from the text to develop an argument based on evidence you cite. I recommend analyzing the relevance of each quotation in terms of your stated topic by showing what each piece of evidence suggests, signals, implies, points to, etc. about your topic. Your conclusion should go beyond summing up the things you have already said. Your entire essay must be coherent.

This assignment asks you to make an argument without looking at what others have said. Papers that merely summarize the text or that rely on outside research cannot receive a grade higher than a C because you are expected to use only internal evidence from Federalist No. 10. Relevant quotations from the essay should drive your interpretation: you should build your argument by explaining how each quotation supports the point of your paragraph and of your paper (i.e., your thesis) rather than simply explaining or paraphrasing its meaning. Do not consult outside sources other than a good dictionary, such as the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). In some circumstances, however, it may be necessary to explain the meaning of a particularly tricky passage, in which case you would be permitted to quote the OED. In such cases, you would still need to show the implications of your interpretation to your overall argument.

Here are some suggestions for how to organize your essay effectively:

A. The best introductions avoid broad openings and instead provide your reader with relevant background information. I offer here a sample **introduction**, which you are free to adapt or expand for the first paragraph of your own essay:

In his treatise on Rhetoric, the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle observed that “all people receive favorably speech spoken in their own character and by persons like themselves” (152). One of the most famous essays in American history, Federalist No. 10 (1787), remains relevant to current political debates, and yet James Madison did not write it for us. Rather, he was writing for a specific audience which he sought to persuade to ratify the U.S. Constitution. Originally published anonymously under the pseudonym “Publius,” Federalist No. 10 comments on the danger of “factions,” or groups of citizens who share a common interest contrary to the rights of other citizens or to the larger community. Madison explains that there are two methods of avoiding factions: either by removing their causes or by controlling their effects. In his view, removing the causes of factions would destroy the liberty necessary for the new republic; he argues, instead, for a strong representative republic which he believed would help keep factions in check so as to ensure individual liberty. By finessing his presentation so as to mimic his audience’s tastes and sensibilities, Madison provides a number of clues about his intended audience for Federalist No. 10. Specifically, I wish to argue that Madison was writing for... [your thesis]

B. The main point of this project is the **body** of your essay—how it is organized, which quotations you cite, how you analyze this evidence, and so forth. Working closely with internal evidence from Madison’s essay, you should explain clearly who you think the original audience of this editorial might have been. Why? What traits or characteristics can you surmise about them? What can you infer about this audience based on Madison’s rhetorical strategies and style? In what ways does he adapt his style to fit this particular audience? Cite specific examples from the text to support your claims. Follow the evidence and see where it leads you.

C. For your **conclusion**, rather than simply recapping the discussion you have already laid out, you should explain the “so what” about your findings. What does all this suggest about Madison’s target audience, and their views of their new republic? It is possible at this point to draw some connections to the present, but, again, you must point to specific evidence to support your claims.

Sample Works Cited

Aristotle. On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse, translated with introduction, notes, and appendices by George A. Kennedy, Second Edition, Oxford UP, 2007.

Madison, James. “The Federalist Number Ten.” 1787. A Documentary History of the United States, edited by Richard D. Heffner and Alexander Heffner, Updated and Expanded 10th Edition, Signet Classics, 2018, pp. 39-45.