

THIRD ANALYTICAL PAPER

Due: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 (annotated bibliography)
Wednesday, April 16, 2025 (polished essay)

Length: AT LEAST 4-6 full pages of text, double spaced, following MLA format, including a correct Works Cited page. A template is still available on my website, <http://citizen.obenauf.net>. **I will not grade any paper that fails to meet these minimum requirements. This part is mandatory.**

Instructions: Analyze a significant American speech from the period 1900-1980 in its historical context. It can be one I assigned from A Documentary History of the United States or another you have cleared with me by email.

After your introduction, there will be three main sections to this project:

First, you will need to provide additional context by explaining the main points of the speech based on your own close reading of the text. Here, you will offer **a hypothesis about what the speech signals about the world at a particular point in time based solely on internal evidence within the speech itself.** (approx. 2 pages)

Second, you will explore how the speech was received at the time by analyzing and comparing its coverage in at least **five** contemporary sources, including at least two national daily publications such as The New York Times or The Washington Post (available online) or The Wall Street Journal (available on microfilm); a local newspaper where the speech took place; and 3) at least two others of your choosing, such as the local newspaper in your hometown or a well-known weekly or monthly magazine like The Atlantic, The Nation, Time Magazine, etc. You should limit your analysis to no more than one syndicated story (AP, UPI, Knight-Ridder, Reuters, or other wire report), and if you analyze such material you should explain how it was tailored for a national audience. For each, you should examine which details the source emphasizes, what it omits, and what these choices suggest about the era; you may also consider the audience and bias of these sources. **You should explain what these findings suggest about the country at that time.** (approx. 2-4 pages)

Third, you will consider the legacy of your speech by citing what other scholars have written in books and journals. (Tip: you can Google authors' names to make sure they are legit; the more recognizable their institution, the better!) You may wish to critique these evaluations. You will need to find at least five such sources in your research, even though you might only end up citing perhaps two or three of them in the essay you write. In addition, you may cite more recent newspaper or magazine op-ed pieces (distinct from scholarly research) but nevertheless important for shaping the public discourse. (approx. 2 pages)

Notes: You should choose a topic that interests you, since you will be expanding this essay into a term paper in which you evaluate your text's legacy in some form. For now, you will simply be researching a topic to see where the evidence leads you, as free from your own bias as possible.

You will need to cite a complete version of your speech, found in a reputable source, either in print or online, such as a presidential archive or other government website (rather than A Documentary History of the United States, Project Gutenberg, or Wikisource, for example).

Your **annotated bibliography**, due on April 9th, should give a one-paragraph summary of each of the sources you plan to use. It is OK to submit more entries than you end up using, and I actually recommend finding more material than required so that you can choose the best.

You will want to use newspaper coverage from the day after the speech, not the day it was given. This is very, very, very, very super important.

Your introduction should sketch out the key details of the speech and of your paper. You will want to explain, briefly, who gave the speech, where, when (giving a specific date), why, who was in the audience, what was its purpose, etc. You should also summarize how the speech was received at the time, but you do not need to mention every newspaper and magazine that you subsequently analyze—paint broadly here. Then, you could briefly comment on how folks have seen the speech recently. End with the thesis (though that'll actually be the last thing you write).

Your introduction must end with a clear, reasonably sophisticated thesis based on the analysis you produced in the body of your paper through rigorous textual evidence and persuasive argumentation.

Do **not** break your paper up into sections with subheadings; instead, make smooth transitions between each major component of your essay.

As a reminder, the use of AI such as ChatGPT for any stage of the writing process is considered a violation of academic integrity policy. To produce your original research, you should avoid non-scholarly websites or encyclopedias. Use the sources available through Zimmerman!

I am also asking you to use the following ten constructions in your paper to help guide your reader through a clear progression of ideas:

Additionally/In addition	Furthermore/Further
Moreover/What's more	First, Second, Third...
Likewise/Similarly	...in contrast.../...on the other hand...
Not only...but also...	...as well as...
Hence/Thus/Therefore	...however...

You must cite evidence for every assertion you make.