

**Dialectical Journal Articles #20-26 Review
(Including Transcendentalism and Memoir Writers)**

Complete the following questions on the essays to assist in focusing you on the style and techniques employed.

Ephron "Revision and Life"

1. How does Ephron structure her essay? (Think Rhetorical Mode)
2. Why is fiction "the ultimate shot at revision" (paragraph 6)?
3. What is Ephron's advice to writers?

Woolf *The Death of the Moth*

1. What figure of speech is the description of the rooks at the end of the first paragraph?
2. Why does the speaker lay the pencil down at the end of paragraph 4?
3. What elements of fiction – plot, character, setting, exposition, climax – do you find in this essay?
4. Trace the emergence of combat imagery in the essay.
5. Woolf does not explicitly state a thesis, but could be state to have an implicit one; how would you state it?
6. How would you describe the speaker's attitude toward death in this essay?
7. What is her overall tone?

Plato *The Allegory of the Cave*

1. In the first paragraph, what does the speaker identify as his purpose?
2. Characterize the attitude and tone of Glaucon.
3. What model is Plato using primarily? Breakdown the components?
4. Characterize the education recommended in paragraph 51.

Stanton *Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions*

1. What is the speaker's purpose?
2. Identify each of the rights indicated.
3. Consider the speaker's appeal to ethos, logos and pathos. Identify two appeals and the type that is most relied on.
4. What is the overall tone of the essay?

Machiavelli *The Morals of the Prince*

1. Provide several examples of juxtapositions and antitheses from the first two paragraphs. Explain their rhetorical effect.
2. Analyze the speaker's argument in paragraph 3 according to the Toulmin method; is it sound?
3. Does paragraph 4 use a claim from the previous paragraphs as its support? Explain.
4. Identify an appeal to logos in paragraph 4.
5. Explain the effect of the series of words "loot, extortion, and plunder" in paragraph 5.
6. Explain the nature of the paradox at the end of the piece.

Dave Barry *Lost in the Kitchen*

1. Identify the stereotypes about the genders to which Barry refers. Does he refute stereotypes about the differences between men and women or confirm them?
2. How is the essay structured (Think Rhetorical Mode)?
3. What are its key rhetorical/stylistic strategies? Are they effective?
4. How does Barry use humor to make his point? Is it effective? What or why not?

Welty *Listening*

1. What strategies do Welty use to characterize her mother and father in the first few paragraphs of this piece?
2. Is it necessary to know all the authors and works Welty names throughout this piece in order to appreciate and understand what she is saying? If not, then why does she list so many?
3. What is Welty's purpose in writing this essay? What elements of argument do you detect?
4. Describe Welty's tone.

Thoreau *Where I Lived and What I Lived For?*

1. Cite and explain the antitheses in the first paragraph.
2. Explain the meanings of "dear" and "mean".
3. Explain the paradox Thoreau develops concerning the railroad.
4. What effect does Thoreau create with his repetitions? Cite examples.

Kingston *No Name Woman*

1. Do you think the opening paragraph is meant to shock readers? If so, how effective is it? If not, what is its purpose?
2. What is the mother's attitude toward the aunt, as revealed in her story (retold by Kingston)?
3. According to the mother, what is the purpose of telling the story? How does her purpose set the stage for Kingston's questions and reflections throughout the essay?
4. What is the rhetorical purpose of paragraphs 11 and 12? Are they providing transition or is their purpose more complex?
5. How would you describe Kingston's attitude toward her aunt by the end of the essay? Try thinking in terms of a trio of adjectives to capture the complexity of her response.

Momaday *The Way to Rainy Mountain*

1. Identify the figurative language and sound devices Momaday uses.
2. Describe Momaday's tone in the first paragraph.
3. Identify the appeals to the senses at the beginning of the piece. What is the effect of the images created?
4. Find an example of irony in paragraph 12; how does it relate to the tone or purpose to the overall piece?