Questions for Reading Rhetorically

1. What questions does the text address?

2. Who is the intended audience? (Am I part of this audience or an outsider?)

3. How does the author support his or her thesis with reason and evidence. (Do I find this argument convincing? What views and counterarguments are omitted from the text? What counterevidence is ignored?)

4. How does the author make himself or herself seem credible (ethos) to the intended audience? (Is the author (credible-evoke ethos) for me? Are the author’s sources/logos/examples reliable?)

5. Are this author’s basic values, beliefs, and assumptions similar to or different from my own? (How does this author’s worldview accord with mine?)

6. How do I respond to this text? (Will I go along with or challenge what this text is presenting? How has it changed my thinking?)

7. How do this author’s evident purposes for writing fit my purposes for reading? (How will I be able to use what I have learned from the text?)

8. Did I feel any kind of emotion while reading this text? What kind of emotion (pathos) did I feel? Did the author naturally draw the emotion (pathos) from me, or was the emotion (pathos) forced or manipulated in some way? If you as a reader did feel manipulated, cite specific examples found in the text the author uses to make you feel this way.