Alana Epperson

Dr. Barry

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Audience, Purpose, and Context in My Final Paper

Before this reflection and our Monday’s class where we discussed Heady and Miller’s papers and presentations, I had not taken into account my audience, only the purpose and context. All three of these things needs to be considered in order to effectively present my paper to a room full of people who most likely have not read my primary text or the theorists that I am presenting.

The likelihood that my audience has read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is fairly high, but I cannot just assume that. Hurston’s novel is commonly read by high school students, but they may have not read the novel since then. When I begin talking about the theorists, I need to be able to accurately describe their theories in a way that my audience can understand and follow. If I cannot do this effectively, I could lose my audience.

The purpose of my paper and presentation will be to describe how the main character of Hurston’s novel, Janie, is an illustration of feminist growth and empowerment for 20th century women. Feminism is not a theme that my audience will be unfamiliar with, but how I deliver that theme through the theorists framework most likely WILL be unfamiliar. I will have to carefully combine the two in order to present my claim so that my audience can follow my purpose.

The context in which I write my paper and give my presentation must be vastly different in presentation. My paper will be much more in depth than my panel presentation. Dr. Barry knows *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and my theorists so he will be able to follow my paper and presentation much easier. My audience at the presentation will have little to no knowledge of my chosen novel and the theorists that I chose, so I will have to adapt to that in my presentation.

How well my audience understands my claim greatly depends on how I choose to present my paper. Taking into account the knowledge of my peers and other audience members is crucial to how I present myself and my paper.