**E1: RHETORICAL ANALYSIS ON RACHEL CARSON**

***Eloquentia Perfecta*: Rhetorical Analysis of a Written Argument**

**Purpose:** Many writers and speakers--from poets to essayists to preachers--have chosen to devote much of their life’s work reflecting on and arguing for the importance of a particular cause. We will begin the semester by reading two texts that attempt to embody the spirit of *eloquentia perfecta*--a Jesuit term which   embodies “the classical ideal of the good person writing and speaking well for the public good.” Focusing on Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* (1962), we will explore the historical context, purpose, audience, and rhetorical style of this texts in order to be better rhetorical readers, writers, and citizens ourselves.

**Your Task:** In a **1250-1500 word** essay, you will explore the answers to the following questions: How, why, and to what effect does Rachel Carson use a particular rhetorical device to persuade her audience(s) to agree with her main point? Be sure to use summary, paraphrase, quotations, and analysis to support and illustrate your thesis.

**Essay Structure:**

**I. INTRODUCTION FORMAT**

**A.** The first page should include a few sentences of historical and biographical context of Carson’s chapters, followed by a summary of her first two chapters. Be sure to include M.L.A. style in-text parenthetical citation for every sentence.

**B**. Then you will transition into a more **traditional introduction** (1 paragraph) that contextualizes your **thesis statement**, which will come near the end of the introduction paragraph and will generally answer the question located in the task above. PLEASE PUT YOUR THESIS IN [BRACKETS]!

**C.** Be sure to consider your **audience** when writing your introductory paragraphs: an educated and interested collegiate reader, but perhaps one who does not know all of the details that you know after exploring this topic.

**II. BODY PARAGRAPH FORMAT**

A. You should have 3-4 body paragraphs supporting your thesis statement.

B. Each topic sentence needs to make a claim that supports some aspect of your thesis. The topic sentences must follow these guidelines: they should not simply be facts but rather sub-points to be proven; they should be different from but related to some aspect of your thesis; they should be different from the other topic sentences.

C. Be sure to use a combination of paraphrase, summary, quotations, and your own analysis to develop your argument.

**III. TITLE, CONCLUSION, and WORKS CITED PAGE**

**A**. After you have written your essay, please craft a **title** that represents its content so that your reader will know what your essay is about before they begin to read it. Please indicate the **word count** beneath your title.

**B.** Please include an M.L.A. formatted **Works Cited** page at the end of your essay.

**C**. As a suggestion for **concluding** this essay, instead of repeating exactly what you wrote in your introduction and thesis, consider sharing with your reader what happened after *Silent Spring* was published.

**Meets all three student learning outcomes.**