

Successful Rhetorical Analysis Conclusions

In all, Emerson's *Self Reliance* is not only a essay theorizing how a man should live his life, it is much more a tale of adventure and the pursuit of morality. It not only forces us to question how we live our lives but rather why we live them as we do. And in this, Emerson forces us to realize just how much we yearn for a life unmolested by the burdensome stigmas and beliefs of society by crafting his argument not through the highly complex and abstract thought processes of a philosopher, but rather through the simple terms of American life—of the farmer and the child—and through the harsh cold realities of the world, the anger that society aims at those who rebel. In doing so, Emerson guides us to the conclusion that the only real and morally proper guide to one's actions through life is the self. Not friends nor parents nor societal laws should govern a being; the individual alone is privy to such a right.

Emerson's essay is a beautiful example of a paced argument. By making sure not to scare his reader away in the beginning, he establishes a non-confrontational relationship with the audience that allows him to speak with emotion and conviction later on. In a way, his rhetorical organization is a metaphor for individualism: he begins speaking on mankind as a whole and narrows it down to the individual, where he makes his strongest points.