Week 1: Rhetorical Situations

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What is a **rhetorical situation?** Basically, this is an academic way of referring to all of the different scenarios in which we write or speak (even read). Writing is tool that is used in a broad range of activities and settings. Things like going to the doctor, sharing your political opinion, applying for a credit card, writing a letter of complaint, and even writing notes in class are all activities that rely on writing. However, each of these rhetorical situations is different, and each requires specific knowledge of the situation, audience, required information.

I. Think about everything you have done in the past 24 hours and write down the situations in which you wrote **anything**. Some examples include writing a note to your roommate, text messaging, taking notes, writing email, filling out a job application. List these activities below. First, identify the rhetorical situation, then what features of writing are involved in that particular situation (e.g. length of writing, vocabulary, required content, medium, format, tone, audience, level of detail), and finally why or how do you know these rhetorical requirements.

Rhetorical Situation	Features of Writing	Why?
1		