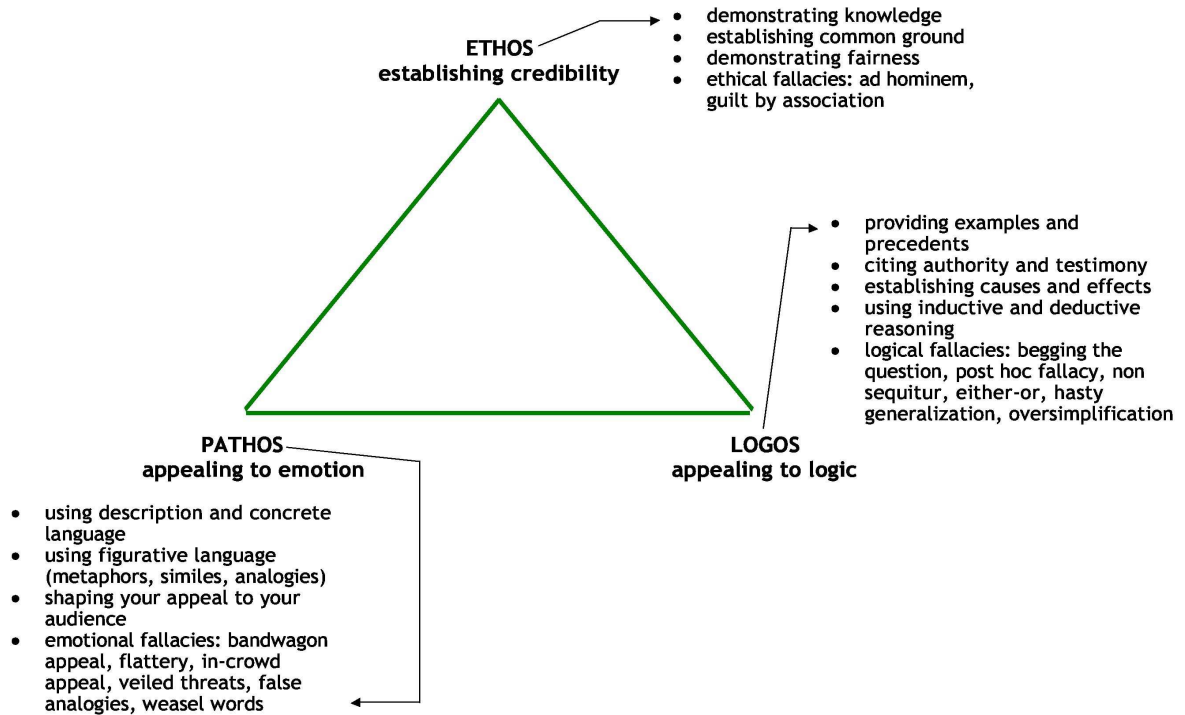


THE RHETORICAL TRIANGLE



The Reader's Rhetorical Triangle

Logos

- Note the claims the author makes, the exigence.
- Note the data the author provides in support of the claims.
- Note the conclusions the author draws.

Ethos

- Note how the author establishes a persona
- Note how the author establishes credibility
- Note any revelation of the author's credentials or personal history

Pathos

- Note the primary audience for the text
- Note the emotional appeals the author makes
- Note the author's expectations of the audience

When reading nonfiction, note the language the author uses to appeal to logos, ethos, and pathos.

The Writer's Rhetorical Triangle

Logos

- Have I established the purpose for my text, and have I utilized the most effective genre?
- Have I established a clear, reasonable, and logical progression of my ideas?
- Have I addressed opposing arguments or perspectives?

Ethos

- Have I established the appropriate persona?
- Have I established my credibility?
- Have I expressed my knowledge and expertise of the topic?

Pathos

- Have I considered the primary audience, the type of background they have?
- Does my audience agree with me or will I have to persuade them of the validity of my argument?
- How will I make my text appeal to my audience?

When crafting nonfiction, carefully consider the language choices you will use to appeal to logos, ethos, and pathos.

Here is the expanded triangle representing the aspects of the rhetorical transaction:

