

Determining the Rhetorical Situation

- **What have I already read or written that is similar to this assignment? What are my strengths and weaknesses? How can I address them when writing this paper?**
- **What is the context for writing? What are the requirements for length? How much time should I allot for planning and organizing, drafting and revising a piece of this length? What should my tone be?**
- **Who is my audience? Can my peers understand what I'm saying? Am I fulfilling the criteria established by my instructor? How much revising and polishing will I need to do to meet the instructor's standards? What format should I use?**
- **What do I know about this topic? What experiences can I draw on? Should I go to the library or the Internet for additional information? How much information is necessary for a paper of this length?**
- **Why am I writing? Should I focus on describing the topic, explaining its purpose, or persuading the audience to accept my position?**