

My understanding of rhetoric has completely altered itself, and deepened in meaning after reading this article. Before, I fell under some of the common misconceptions associated with rhetoric, such as its use in asking a rhetorical question and as a persuasive tactic. The most obvious differences from my previous mindset towards the topic, to now, after reading about the term's true, definitive meaning, are that now, I understand that rhetoric is much more than how words are strung together and for what purpose. I now know that rhetoric is the principles that constitute "meaning-making" and how those principles apply in our everyday interactions. One explanation for human knowledge that is seen through rhetoric is epistemology. This is the understanding that humans make connections to what they have previously learned from past experiences to make sense of new experiences that they encounter through their lifetime. Therefore, rhetoric is of much more value if it is used epistemologically as opposed to literally, because in this manner, people can not only make meaning of situations, but they can understand how their brain makes it possible for them to do so.