Reading Rhetorically

**Activity 7:** **Considering the Structure of the Text**

1. Draw a line across the page where the introduction ends. Is it after the first paragraph, or are there several introductory paragraphs? How do you know?
2. Draw a line across the page where the conclusion begins. Is it the last paragraph, or are there several concluding paragraphs? How do you know?
3. Discuss in groups or as a class why the lines were drawn where they were. In this activity, thinking and reasoning about organizational structure is more important than agreeing on where the lines should be drawn.
4. Further divide the body of the text into sections by topics (what each section is about).
5. Write a short description of what each section is about, what it says about that topic (“says”), and the rhetorical function of the section (why the writer put it there, “does”).
6. ~~Copy the “says” and “does” statements onto separate sheets of paper to make one outline of the article according to what each chunk says and one outline according to what each chunk does.~~

Now, answer the following questions:

* How does each section affect the reader? What is the writer trying to accomplish?
* What does each section say? What is the content?
* Which section is the most developed?
* Which section is the least developed?
* Which section is the most persuasive? The least persuasive?
* On the basis of your chart of the text, what do you think is the main point? Is that point explicit or implicit?