

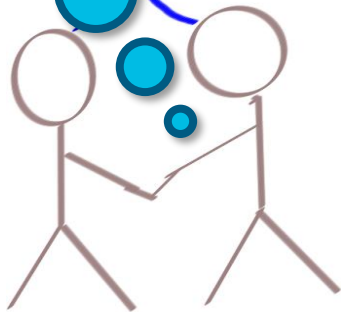
What questions does the author leave unanswered about the giant squid?

In this lesson you will learn how to analyze the impact of unanswered questions on the overall meaning of a text by considering the author's purpose in making the omission.

Let's Review

Why did the author write this piece?
To persuade?
Entertain?
Inform?

AGREE



Author's Purpose

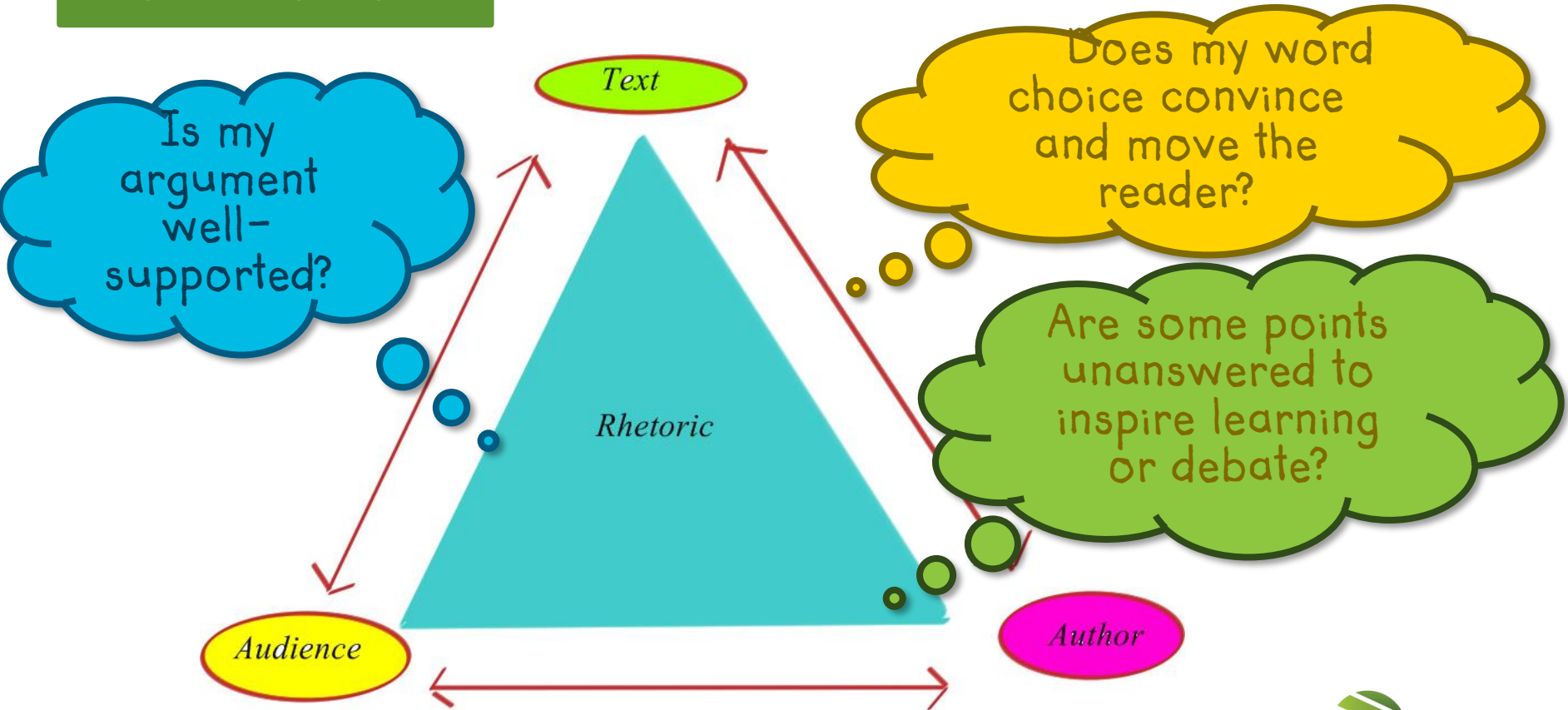


What is the author leading me to think about my topic?



Let's Review

Rhetoric



Core Lesson

- 1 Reread the passages, marking sections where the author presents debatable points or poses unanswered questions.
- 2 Ask, “What information is missing?”
- 3 Ask, “Why did the author choose to leave this question unanswered?”

Core Lesson

Reread and highlight sections where the author presents debatable points or poses unanswered questions.

The enormous cephalopod still seems mysterious. *Architeuthis* inhabit the dark recesses of the ocean, and scientists are not even sure how many species are in the giant squid genus. Most of what we know comes from the unfortunate squid that have been stranded at the surface or hauled up in fishing nets, or from collections of beaks found in the stomachs of their primary predator, the sperm whale.

What does the author leave unanswered?

- “Still seems mysterious”
- “Scientists are not even sure how many species” exist
- Knowledge gained only from the limited, “unfortunate squid that have been stranded at the surface.”

Core Lesson

Reread and highlight sections where the author presents debatable points or poses unanswered questions.

Slowly, though, squid experts are piecing together the natural history of Architeuthis. The long-lived apex predators prey mainly on other ocean hunters, they accumulate high concentrations of toxins, especially those squid that live in more polluted areas. Many giant squid therefore can act as an indicator of deep-sea pollution. Strandings off Newfoundland are tied to sharp rises in temperature, so giant squid may similarly act as indicators of how human activity is altering ocean environments. There are two giant squid, 26 feet long, on display in the National Museum of Natural History. As NMNH squid expert Clyde Roper says, "They are the only ones ever to have lived on the

- How are areas becoming polluted and what does this mean for the future of the giant squid?
- How will squids cope with "human driven climate change?"

What questions remain here?

Core Lesson

Why did the author choose to leave these questions unanswered?

- “Still seems mysterious”
- “Scientists are not even sure how many species” exist
- Knowledge gained only from the limited, “unfortunate squid that have been stranded at the surface.”

What do these questions lead the reader to think about?

- How will squids cope with “human driven climate change?”

Core Lesson

Why did the author choose to leave these questions unanswered?

Switek poses many unanswered questions about the giant squid. First, he explains that scientists are “not even sure how many species” exist, because squid live in habitats that are difficult to access. As scientists have studied this invertebrate, they have been limited to observing the limited, “unfortunate squid that have been stranded at the surface.” The future of the squid is also in question, due to pollution, which creates a toxic food supply for the squid, and “human driven climate change,” which is slowly raising the ocean’s temperature. By leaving these questions unanswered, Switek perpetuates the struggle between the scientific knowledge of the squid and the long-standing mystery it possesses. With these questions, he informs the reader of the potential for future discoveries about the squid, but also persuades the reader to consider the impact of human actions on ocean habitats. Hopefully, the reader will be inspired to seek their own answers to the mysteries surrounding this unique creature.

Core Lesson

- 1 Reread the passages, marking sections where the author presents debatable points or poses unanswered questions.
- 2 Asked, “What information is missing?”
- 3 Asked, “Why did the author choose to leave this question unanswered?”

In this lesson you have learned how to analyze the impact of unanswered questions on the overall meaning of a text by considering the author's purpose in making the omission.