

ENGL 3604 – PERSUASIVE WRITING M50
SPRING 2024
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RHETORICS OF BAD TASTE

During the 2016 Democratic National Convention, Michelle Obama noted that “when they go low, we go high.” However seemingly noble such an approach might be, it leaves unexamined the question of why and how rhetorics in/of “bad taste” can be so effective. We will critically examine “low-brow” rhetorical strategies and methods, learning how to (re)appropriate such rhetorical means in the service of common good and well-being ends, including but not limited to: rhetorics of provocation, violence, fear, personal destruction, taboo, fascism, and exclusion.