Group Activity: Exploring the Rhetorical Situation: Using Sources to Respond to Questions

**Purpose:**
The following exercise is designed for two reasons: (1) to further your understanding of the rhetorical situation; and (2) to prepare you to respond critically to readings.

**Directions:**
You will have ______ minutes to complete each exercise. Each round offers key terms, a question, and some direct quotations. The key terms are associated with a rhetorical situation. Please work together to discuss and answer the question. In the course of answering the question, please draw upon one or more quotations in some way, either through paraphrase, summary, or direct quotation. You are encouraged to use the templates provided in They Say/ I Say to help you include what others say. Don’t forget to add what you say as well. After discussion, record your group’s response to the question on a piece of paper. Put all members’ names on the sheet of paper as well.

**Round Two: Rhetorical Situation**
Key Terms: Writer’s Stance, Discourse Community, Sources

**Q: What relationship should writers have with their sources?**

“As you can see from these examples, many writers use the ‘they say/I say’ format to disagree with others, to challenge standard ways of thinking, and thus to stir up controversy. This point may come as a shock to you if you have always had the impression that in order to succeed academically you need to play it safe and avoid controversy in your writing, making statements that nobody can possibly disagree with” (Graff & Birkenstein, 2006, p. 7).

“... [A]t a deeper level, [this book] invites you to become a certain type of person: a critical, intellectual thinker who, instead of sitting passively on the sidelines, can participate in the debates and conversations of your world in an active and empowered way” (Wysocki & Lynch, 2007, p. 12).

“Thinking rhetorically begins with listening, with being willing to hear the words of others in an open and understanding way. It means paying attention to what others say as a way of getting started on your own contributions to the conversation” (Lunsford et al, 2013, p. 8).

“We have two ears and one mouth so we may listen more and talk less” (Epictetus).