The Ethics of Computer Network Attack Persuasion: Ethos, Pathos, Logos Essay

TOPIC: ETHICS

GRADES: 11-12

LESSON DURATION: TEACHER DISCRETION (MULTIPLE DAYS)

SOFT SKILLS: RESEARCH, COMMUNICATION, CRITICAL THINKING, GRIT

Introduction:

- This lesson plan was produced specifically for AP English 12. During the first nine weeks, students are assigned a different thematic essay each Friday. This assignment will serve to replace a reading used previously by the instructor, who was looking for a more current topic for the students to analyze. The article linked is dated but would still prompt debate, discussion, or opinionated writing from students.

Learning Outcomes:

- After reading an article, students will develop three arguments to defend, refute or extend the main theme of the essay.
- Students will define and practice ethos, pathos, and logos arguments.
- Students will develop an opinion on the ethics of cyber-attacks.

Materials:

- Suggested article for review: The Ethics of Computer Network Attack by William J. Bayles

Activities:

1. The teacher should explain that this week's essay assignment is to read the article entitled, "The Ethics of Computer Network Attack."
2. Students are then required to respond to the reading. Students can choose to defend, refute or extend the arguments found within the reading. While choosing which way to respond, the student should defend their position with at least one argument from each category: ethos, pathos, logos.
3. At this point, it might be good to remind students of the definition of each argument: ethos: attempting to convince of the morals or ethics of the persuader or author, pathos: appealing to emotion, logos: appealing to logic or reason.
4. Students then have a week outside of class to complete the individual essay.
5. This activity could be done with other articles involving cyber ethics, if desired.