
Summary

The following textbook is a modern version of rhetorical preliminary exercises (gr. *progymnasmata*). It represents many years of teaching experiences gained by teaching rhetoric and argumentation at different Slovenian universities as well as research experiences from almost a decade of thorough studying of rhetoric and argumentation, their theoretical concepts, historical perspectives and the role they (should) play in the contemporary public discourse. Apart from a short conceptual and historical overview the main focus of the textbook lies in the series of writing assignments, which are adapted for a contemporary user. Fourteen assignments, which are formed as explicit instructions for writing, put forward a practical knowledge of basic rhetorical and argumentative skills: from mainly narrative techniques to persuasive and argumentative strategies such as rhetorical situation (i.e. an assessment of speaker, audience and proper language use), determining a point at issue, construction of arguments etc. In the appendix we added a discussion on *topoi*, which highlights their different conceptualizations and enables their better understanding in the context of preliminary exercises.