

Religion and Society, Winter 2010  
Critical Reasoning Section  
Homework due 9 February

Before you do this work, read chapter 7 of the Cavender and Kahane text. Then, write a paragraph on each of the questions below, drawing upon Hitchens, Harris or Dawkins, from anywhere to the point you've read currently.

1. Does the author state his **purpose** for writing the book? If so, where does he state this, and what is it? If not, what does the author say that seems to imply something about his purpose? (Note that the *purpose* is not the same as the *thesis*, although the two will inevitably be closely related.)
2. Does the author state who his intended **audience** is? If so, where, and what does he state? If not, what can you infer about who his intended audience is, and what leads you to this inference?
3. Pay attention to the **tone** of the book, as well as to the other rhetorical effects that Cavender and Kahane call attention to in chapter 7. How would you characterize the tone, overall? Quote at least two passages (and cite them, of course!) that illustrate your characterization of the tone.
4. Given what you understand to be the purpose of the book and who you understand to be the author's intended audience, in what ways do you think the tone of the book is likely to be **effective** in achieving its purpose? Why?
5. Given all of the above again, in what ways do you think the tone of the book is likely to be **ineffective** in achieving its purpose? Why?