

Speeches For Rhetorical Analysis

Essay by  IvyPanda®

Michele Obama's Speech: A Rhetorical Analysis

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The study of what rhetorical tools public personalities use in their speech can be a beneficial aspect to study. With its help, people can get an understanding of how, when, and where people can use rhetorical components. This work aims to study Michelle Obama's opening remarks at the White House Convention on Food Marketing to Children. The main message of the First Lady was to draw attention to the suppression of the advertising of unhealthy food to minors. In addition, the main appeals that Obama uses are logic and emotional.

The first aspect of rhetoric used in this speech is logic. It implies the justification and reasons for a particular action or event. Michele Obama stated that "between 2008 and 2011, obesity rates among low-income preschoolers dropped in 19 states and territories across the country" (Read Michelle Obama's Speech on Food Marketing para. 10). Therefore, Obama provides a justification of how important it is for television changes to encourage a proper lifestyle among the younger generation.

The next valuable component of rhetoric in the studied speech of the first lady is the emotional aspect. Thus, Obama emphasizes that "while we have made important progress, when one in three kids is still on track to develop diabetes, and when the diet has now surpassed smoking" (Read Michelle Obama's Speech on Food Marketing para. 11). In this case, Michele Obama points to the positive results already achieved while also highlighting that children are still at risk.

In conclusion, this work was engaged in analyzing Michelle Obama's speech on the topic of the harm of the media for introducing the younger generation to healthy habits. To better convey the main idea, the first lady used such components of rhetoric as logic and emotion. They helped to better form and give important information, gave the speech solidity, and improved the audience's ability to persuade.

Works Cited

"Read Michelle Obama's Speech on Food Marketing." *Grub Streets*, 2013, Web.

Speeches for Rhetorical Analysis: A Guide to Finding the Perfect Text

Are you staring at a blank page, tasked with finding the perfect speech for your rhetorical analysis essay? The sheer volume of available speeches can be overwhelming. This post cuts through the noise, offering a curated selection of speeches ideal for rhetorical analysis, along with tips on how to

choose the right one for your needs and skills. We'll explore various categories, discuss key elements to consider, and provide resources to help you succeed. Let's dive in!

Understanding the Importance of Choosing the Right Speech

Before we jump into specific examples, it's crucial to understand why selecting the right speech is paramount for a successful rhetorical analysis. Your chosen speech forms the foundation of your entire essay. A poor choice can lead to a weak argument, insufficient evidence, and ultimately, a lower grade. The ideal speech offers ample opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos), stylistic devices, and the overall effectiveness of the speaker's message.

Categories of Speeches for Rhetorical Analysis

To aid your search, we've categorized speeches based on their historical context, rhetorical style, and overall complexity:

Historical Speeches:

Classic Oratory: Speeches from ancient Greece and Rome, like those of Demosthenes or Cicero, offer rich examples of classical rhetoric. They're challenging but rewarding, providing insights into the foundations of persuasive speaking. However, their language and context might require extra research.

American Political Speeches: The US boasts a treasure trove of influential political speeches, from the Gettysburg Address to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. These provide readily available texts and ample material for analysis, particularly concerning the use of pathos and ethos.

World War II Speeches: Speeches like Winston Churchill's wartime addresses are compelling examples of rhetoric used to inspire and unite a nation. Analyzing these speeches can highlight the power of language in times of crisis.

Modern Speeches:

TED Talks: The TED Talk format often features concise, impactful speeches covering a wide range of topics. While shorter than historical speeches, they still provide fertile ground for analyzing rhetorical strategies. The variety of topics ensures you can find one that aligns with your interests.

Activist Speeches: Speeches by prominent activists, advocating for social justice or environmental protection, are rich in emotional appeals (pathos) and ethical arguments (ethos). These speeches offer opportunities to explore how rhetoric drives social change.

Commencement Addresses: These speeches, delivered at graduation ceremonies, offer a unique blend of inspiration, reflection, and advice. Analyzing their use of storytelling and persuasive appeals can be insightful.

Key Factors to Consider When Choosing a Speech:

Accessibility of the Text: Ensure you can easily access a reliable, full transcript of the speech.

Length and Complexity: Choose a speech that fits your assignment's length requirements and your analytical skills. Don't overreach; a shorter, well-analyzed speech is better than a longer one superficially examined.

Rhetorical Richness: Look for speeches that utilize a variety of rhetorical devices and appeals. The more sophisticated the rhetoric, the more opportunities you'll have for detailed analysis.

Relevance to Your Interests: Choosing a speech that genuinely interests you will make the analysis process significantly more engaging and enjoyable.

Resources for Finding Speeches:

American Rhetoric: This website provides a vast collection of historical and contemporary speeches.

Internet Archive: A digital library offering access to audio and video recordings of speeches, alongside transcripts.

TED.com: A treasure trove of TED Talks, easily searchable by topic and speaker.

Presidential Libraries: Many presidential libraries offer online archives containing the speeches of past presidents.

Beyond the Speech: The Analytical Framework

Remember, choosing the right speech is only half the battle. Your analytical skills are equally crucial. Ensure you're familiar with the elements of rhetoric:

Ethos (Credibility): How does the speaker establish credibility and trustworthiness?

Pathos (Emotion): How does the speaker appeal to the audience's emotions?

Logos (Logic): How does the speaker use reason and evidence to support their claims?

Kairos (Timing): How does the context and timing of the speech influence its effectiveness?

By carefully considering these factors and utilizing the resources provided, you can confidently select a speech that will lead to a successful and insightful rhetorical analysis.

Conclusion

Selecting the perfect speech for your rhetorical analysis requires careful consideration. By understanding the different categories of speeches, assessing your skills, and utilizing the resources

available, you can navigate the vast landscape of oratory and discover a compelling text that will allow you to demonstrate your analytical abilities. Remember, the best speech is one that both excites your intellectual curiosity and provides ample material for a thorough and insightful analysis.

FAQs

1. Are there any speeches specifically good for beginners in rhetorical analysis? Yes, shorter TED Talks or commencement addresses often provide a less daunting entry point. The Gettysburg Address is another classic example suitable for beginners.
2. Can I analyze a modern-day political speech? Absolutely! Modern political speeches are rich in rhetorical strategies, making them excellent choices for analysis. Just ensure you choose a speech with readily available transcripts.
3. How long should my chosen speech be? There's no magic number, but aim for a speech that allows for a thorough analysis within your assignment's word limit. A shorter, well-analyzed speech is preferable to a longer one covered superficially.
4. Where can I find transcripts of speeches? Websites like American Rhetoric, the Internet Archive, and official presidential library websites are excellent resources for finding transcripts.
5. What if I can't find a transcript? If you're struggling to find a transcript, consider choosing a different speech. A reliable transcript is essential for accurate and detailed analysis.

speeches for rhetorical analysis: The Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln, 2022-11-29
The complete text of one of the most important speeches in American history, delivered by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln arrived at the battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to remember not only the grim bloodshed that had just occurred there, but also to remember the American ideals that were being put to the ultimate test by the Civil War. A rousing appeal to the nation's better angels, The Gettysburg Address remains an inspiring vision of the United States as a country "conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

speeches for rhetorical analysis: The Speeches of Micah Charles S. Shaw, 1993-11-01
In this important book, Shaw deploys a rigorous and systematic rhetorical analysis in the service of a reconstruction of the historical setting of each of the discourses in Micah. Unlike Muilenburg's 'rhetorical criticism', this approach focuses on the persuasiveness of the discourses, the means by which the author achieves his goal. Among Shaw's tools is the concept of the 'rhetorical situation'. It involves not only the question of the identity of the narratees, but also 'objective' factors like events, conditions and attitudes to which the discourse responds and 'subjective' factors like the speaker's own view of the situation. For each discourse the author analyses its goals and strategy, determining the structure of the speeches, the function of each part in the persuasiveness of the speech, the kinds of proof and the style utilized in order to achieve the author's goals.

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Exploring speeches by public figures such as Emma Watson, Tony Blair, Donald Trump, Julia Gillard and Lady Gaga, this engaging textbook explains the ways in which political speeches can be analysed. It examines the role of language in speeches and how it can be used to challenge or

reinforce prevailing social, cultural and political attitudes. Each chapter introduces a particular discourse approach and then applies this in a model analysis of a passage of text. The chosen texts concern issues of social, cultural and political importance that address topics of significant importance to the audience to which they were delivered. Students are encouraged to engage with the text and consider how approaches to text analysis, such as cohesion, context analysis and metaphor analysis, may be adapted to provide a more critical perspective. This text will be essential reading for students of English language, linguistics, communication studies and politics on critical discourse and discourse analysis modules.

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speeches for rhetorical analysis: Demosthenes' "On the Crown" James J. Murphy, 2016-10-04 Demosthenes' speech On the Crown (330 B.C.E.), in which the master orator spectacularly defended his public career, has long been recognized as a masterpiece. The speech has been in continuous circulation from Demosthenes' lifetime to the present day, and multiple generations have acclaimed it as the greatest speech ever written. In addition to a clear and accessible translation, Demosthenes' "On the Crown": Rhetorical Perspectives includes eight essays that provide a thorough analysis—based on Aristotelian principles—of Demosthenes' superb rhetoric. The volume includes biographical and historical background on Demosthenes and his political situation; a structural analysis of On the Crown; and an abstract of Aeschines' speech Against Ctesiphon to which Demosthenes was responding. Four essays by contributors analyze Demosthenes' speech using key elements of rhetoric defined by Aristotle: *ēthos*, the speaker's character or authority; *pathos*, or emotional appeals; *logos*, or logical appeals; and *lexis*, a speaker's style. An introduction and an epilogue by Murphy frame the speech and the rhetorical analysis of it. By bringing together contextual material about Demosthenes and his speech with a translation and astute rhetorical analyses, Demosthenes' "On the Crown": Rhetorical Perspectives highlights the oratorical artistry of Demosthenes and provides scholars and students with fresh insights into a landmark speech.

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speeches for rhetorical analysis: Handbook of Communication in the Public Sphere Ruth Wodak, Veronika Koller, 2008-08-27 As you are reading this, you are finding yourself in the ubiquitous public sphere that is the Web. Ubiquitous, and yet not universally accessible. This volume addresses this dilemma of the public sphere, which is by definition open to everyone but in practice often excludes particular groups of people in particular societies at particular points in time. The guiding questions for this collection of articles are therefore: Who has access to the public sphere? How is this access enabled or disabled? Under what conditions is it granted or withheld, and by whom? We regard the public sphere as the nodal point for the discourses of business, politics and media, and this basic assumption is also reflected in the structure of the volume. Each of these three macro-topics comprises chapters by international scholars from a variety of disciplines and research traditions who each combine up-to-date overviews of the relevant literature with their own cutting-edge research into aspects of different public spheres such as corporate promotional communication, political rhetoric or genre features of electronic mass media. The broad scope of the volume is perhaps best reflected in a comprehensive discussion of communication technologies ranging from conventional spoken and written formats such as company brochures, political speeches and TV shows to emerging ones like customer chat forums, political blogs and text messaging. Due to the books' wide scope, its interdisciplinary approach and its clear structure, we are sure that whether you work in communication and media studies, linguistics, political science, sociology or marketing, you will find this handbook an invaluable guide offering state-of-the-art literature reviews and exciting new research in your field and adjacent areas.

speeches for rhetorical analysis: Homeric Speech and the Origins of Rhetoric Rachel Ahern Knudsen, 2014-04 Knudsen argues that Homeric epics are the locus for the origins of rhetoric. Traditionally, Homer's epics have been the domain of scholars and students interested in ancient Greek poetry, and Aristotle's rhetorical theory has been the domain of those interested in ancient rhetoric. Rachel Ahern Knudsen believes that this academic distinction between poetry and rhetoric should be challenged. Based on a close analysis of persuasive speeches in the Iliad, Knudsen argues that Homeric poetry displays a systematic and technical concept of rhetoric and that many Iliadic speakers in fact employ the rhetorical techniques put forward by Aristotle. Rhetoric, in its earliest formulation in ancient Greece, was conceived as the power to change a listener's actions or attitudes through words—particularly through persuasive techniques and argumentation. Rhetoric was thus a “technical” discipline in the ancient Greek world, a craft (technê) that was rule-governed, learned, and taught. This technical understanding of rhetoric can be traced back to the works of Plato and Aristotle, which provide the earliest formal explanations of rhetoric. But do such explanations constitute the true origins of rhetoric as an identifiable, systematic practice? If not, where does a technique-driven rhetoric first appear in literary and social history? Perhaps the answer is in Homeric epics. Homeric Speech and the Origins of Rhetoric demonstrates a remarkable congruence between the rhetorical techniques used by Iliadic speakers and those collected in Aristotle's seminal treatise on rhetoric. Knudsen's claim has implications for the fields of both Homeric poetry and the history of rhetoric. In the former field, it refines and extends previous scholarship on direct speech in Homer by identifying a new dimension within Homeric speech—namely, the consistent deployment of well-defined rhetorical arguments and techniques. In the latter field, it challenges the traditional account of the development of rhetoric, probing the boundaries that currently demarcate its origins, history, and relationship to poetry.

speeches for rhetorical analysis: A Rhetorical Analysis of Selected Public Speeches of James Russell Lowell Arvin LeRoy Workman, 1965

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Address, the Gettysburg Address, and the Second Inaugural. The latter two are well-known, enshrined forever on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial. The former is much less familiar to most, written a quarter century before his presidency, when he was a 28 year-old Illinois state legislator. In *His Greatest Speeches*, Professor Diana Schaub offers a brilliant line-by-line analysis of these timeless works, placing them in historical context and explaining the brilliance behind their rhetoric. The result is a complete vision of Lincoln's worldview that is sure to fascinate and inspire general readers and history buffs alike. This book is a wholly original resource for considering the difficult questions of American purpose and identity, questions that are no less contentious or essential today than they were over two hundred years ago.

speeches for rhetorical analysis: You Talkin' To Me? Sam Leith, 2011-10-20 Rhetoric gives our words the power to inspire. But it's not just for politicians: it's all around us, whether you're buttering up a key client or persuading your children to eat their greens. You have been using rhetoric yourself, all your life. After all, you know what a rhetorical question is, don't you? In this updated edition of his classic guide, Sam Leith traces the art of argument from ancient Greece down to its many modern mutations. He introduces verbal villains from Hitler to Donald Trump - and the three musketeers: ethos, pathos and logos. He explains how rhetoric works in speeches from Cicero to Richard Nixon, and pays tribute to the rhetorical brilliance of AC/DC's *Back In Black*. Before you know it, you'll be confident in chiasmus and proud of your panegyrics - because rhetoric is useful, relevant and absolutely nothing to be afraid of.

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speeches for rhetorical analysis: Understanding Rhetoric Elinor A. McNeel, 2017-05-23 A Book of Student Writing from Rhetoric and Composition People avoid writing because of the fear and anxiety they have about writing. Prior to attending Penn State and taking a Rhetoric and Composition class, I was one of those people. Depending on the style and the way the material is presented, you will find yourself creating essays, outlining speeches, etc., without giving it a second thought. After my very first English course at Penn State, I was over the fear and was able to not only pass the course with an A but was approached by my Effective Speech and Communications professor requesting my papers be used as samples in her upcoming courses. You will find essays in this book on subject matter that will motivate and improve the writers skills in the following areas: rhetorical analysis, position arguments, proposals, understanding the rhetorical situation, and many more. Also included are a couple of speeches that I thoroughly enjoyed preparing.

speeches for rhetorical analysis: Understanding Political Persuasion: Linguistic and Rhetorical Analysis Douglas Mark Ponton, 2020-04-02 This book builds on the consolidated research field of Political Discourse Analysis and attempts to provide an introduction suitable for adoption amongst a readership wishing to understand some of the principles underlying such research, and above all to appreciate how the tools of discourse analysis might be applied to actual texts. It summarises some of the work that has been done in this field by authorities such as Halliday, Fairclough, Wodak, Chilton, Van Dijk, Martin, Van Leeuwen and others to provide the would-be

analyst with practical ideas for their own research. Naturally, this would not be the first time that such a handbook or introductory reference book has been proposed. Fairclough himself recently produced one; however, his work, simply entitled *Political Discourse Analysis*, inevitably includes theoretical insights from his own research. The beginning analyst can, at times, experience a sense of bewilderment at the mass of theoretical writing in linguistics, in the search for some practical, usable tools. I explain a variety of such tools, demonstrating their usefulness in application to the analysis of a number of political speeches, from different historical periods and diverse social contexts. The author's hope is that would-be students of political rhetoric, of whatever level and from a variety of research areas, will be able to pick up this book and find tools and techniques that will assist them in actual work on texts. Naturally, it is also hoped that they will be inspired to follow up the suggestions for further reading which they will find in the bibliography.

speeches for rhetorical analysis: *Cicero's Accretive Style* Steven M. Cerutti, 1996 Cicero's Accretive Style is a book about the nature of the Ciceronian exordium and its rhetorical structure and function. Through a sentence-by-sentence stylistic analysis of the exordia of a selection of Cicero's judicial speeches, this book explores how Cicero uses a variety of rhetorical strategies to fulfill the aims of the exordium as he himself defined them. The speeches selected for study include the Pro Quintio, Pro Roscio Amerino, and Pro Rege Deiotaro, and cover the span of Cicero's career. The focus of the analysis is on Cicero's accretive style--not a rhetorical device in the formal sense, but a conscious, stylistic effort whose effect is rhetorical. Because Cicero also wrote important treatises on oratory and rhetoric, this book measures how closely Cicero followed his own guidelines laid down for the exordium, and how and under what circumstances he deviated or departed from them.

speeches for rhetorical analysis: *Great Speeches For Better Speaking* Michael E. Eidenmuller, 2008-06-25 Master the art of persuasion with lessons from the best speakers of our time. Throughout history, they have moved us. They have enlightened and inspired us. They are our nation's most influential speakers, gifted with the talent to change minds and hearts. What is the almost magical power they possess--and how can you harness it for yourself? The answers are here in this illuminating guide to unforgettable oratory. Complete with a ninety-minute CD featuring six great speeches in their entirety, this tool kit for speakers takes you through an in-depth analysis of these historically significant speeches and the secrets of their eloquent effectiveness. With close examination of each speech, you'll get lessons on how to: Address a difficult situation with help from the Great Communicator, Ronald Reagan Bring divergent interests together with effective arguments like Edward Kennedy Capture and hold your audience's attention by mastering General Douglas MacArthur's structural techniques Style a formal speech with the elegance of John F. Kennedy Maximize your delivery by studying the power of Barbara Jordan's voice Use Mary Fisher's special rhetorical tactics to sway even the toughest audience

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speeches for rhetorical analysis: *You Have the Right to Remain Innocent* James J. Duane, 2016 An urgent, compact manifesto that will teach you how to protect your rights, your freedom, and your future when talking to police. Law professor James J. Duane became a viral sensation thanks to a 2008 lecture outlining the reasons why you should never agree to answer questions from the police--especially if you are innocent and wish to stay out of trouble with the law. In this timely, relevant, and pragmatic new book, he expands on that presentation, offering a vigorous defense of every citizen's constitutionally protected right to avoid self-incrimination. Getting a lawyer is not only the best policy, Professor Duane argues, it's also the advice law-enforcement professionals give their own kids. Using actual case histories of innocent men and women exonerated after decades in prison because of information they voluntarily gave to police, Professor Duane demonstrates the

critical importance of a constitutional right not well or widely understood by the average American. Reflecting the most recent attitudes of the Supreme Court, Professor Duane argues that it is now even easier for police to use your own words against you. This lively and informative guide explains what everyone needs to know to protect themselves and those they love.

speeches for rhetorical analysis: *Rhetorical Public Speaking* Nathan Crick, 2015-09-25 Offers students an advanced approach to public speaking through a comprehensive discussion of rhetorical theory This text begins by addressing Aristotle's Five Canons of the Art-a means of covering the basics through the lens of rhetorical theory- and progresses into a sophisticated outline of understanding, constructing and delivering artful rhetoric. The book incorporates scholarship on mediated communication, pragmatic speaking genres, the rhetorical situation, and aesthetic form. *Rhetorical Public Speaking* aims to encourage students to be engaged citizens of society. Upon completing this book, readers will be able to: Understand Aristotle's Five Canons of Rhetoric Construct and execute speeches Explore how they can use rhetorical speech in their daily lives

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speeches for rhetorical analysis: *Rhetoric in Popular Culture* Barry Brummett, 2017-10-10 *Rhetoric in Popular Culture*, Fifth Edition, shows readers how to apply growing and cutting-edge methods of critical studies to a full spectrum of contemporary issues seen in daily life. Exploring a wide range of mass media including current movies, magazines, advertisements, social networking sites, music videos, and television shows, Barry Brummett uses critical analysis to apply key rhetorical concepts to a variety of exciting examples drawn from popular culture. Readers are guided from theory to practice in an easy-to-understand manner, providing them with a foundational understanding of the definition and history of rhetoric as well as new approaches to the rhetorical tradition. Ideal for courses in rhetorical criticism, the highly anticipated Fifth Edition includes new critical essays and case studies that demonstrate for readers how the critical methods discussed can be used to study the hidden rhetoric of popular culture.

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speeches for rhetorical analysis: The Art Of Rhetoric Aristotle, 2014-09-02 In *The Art of Rhetoric*, Aristotle demonstrates the purpose of rhetoric—the ability to convince people using your skill as a speaker rather than the validity or logic of your arguments—and outlines its many forms and techniques. Defining important philosophical terms like *ethos*, *pathos*, and *logos*, Aristotle establishes the earliest foundations of modern understanding of rhetoric, while providing insight into its historic role in ancient Greek culture. Aristotle's work, which dates from the fourth century B.C., was written while the author lived in Athens, remains one of the most influential pillars of philosophy and has been studied for centuries by orators, public figures, and politicians alike. HarperTorch brings great works of non-fiction and the dramatic arts to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperTorch collection to build your digital library.

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in the study of African American rhetorics. Edited by Elaine B. Richardson and Ronald L. Jackson II, the volume explores culturally and discursively developed forms of knowledge, communicative practices, and persuasive strategies rooted in freedom struggles by people of African ancestry in America. Outlining African American rhetorics found in literature, historical documents, and popular culture, the collection provides scholars, students, and teachers with innovative approaches for discussing the epistemologies and realities that foster the inclusion of rhetorical discourse in African American studies. In addition to analyzing African American rhetoric, the fourteen contributors project visions for pedagogy in the field and address new areas and renewed avenues of research. The result is an exploration of what parameters can be used to begin a more thorough and useful consideration of African Americans in rhetorical space.

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