

Questions to Guide Analyses of Public Discourse

As critics of public discourse, you make assessments of discursive and nondiscursive communication. In criticism, you study rhetorical effectiveness while studying the rhetorical acts, explaining their significance, and making judgments about the acts. The following list of questions by James R. Andrews (The Practice of Rhetorical Criticism [New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1983, p. 62]) complement the techniques mentioned throughout your textbook. They should assist you in your analytical efforts.

1. What is the principal argument of the speech?
2. What is the implied purpose of the speech? How does it compare with the stated purpose?
3. What are the individual arguments? How are they constructed?
4. What specific forms of support can be identified? How do they function to promote conclusions?
5. What are the main ideas of the speech? How do they relate to the specific materials presented and to each other?
6. What functions do introductions, conclusions, and transitions play in promoting the movement of the speech?
7. Is a predominant pattern of development evident in the speech? Are there any subpatterns within the speech?
8. What do the patterns suggest about the speaker's perspective on the issues involved and his/her perceptions of a desirable audience perspective?
9. How may the speech's tone, level of generality, level of complexity, diction, and texture be described?
10. What function does language appear to play in furthering the argument of the speech?
11. Given the analytical finding, what consistent patterns or strategies emerge in the areas of agreement, supporting material, structure, and style?
12. How may these patterns be related to the entire rhetorical situation -context, audience, speaker -in which the rhetorical act took place?
13. What significant rhetorical meaning(s) can be placed on this act within the rhetorical process of which it forms a part?
14. In what ways and to what extent does the speech engage the audience?
15. In what ways and to what extent does the speech exhibit sound intellectual and reasonable judgment?
16. What are the probable consequences to society of the speech's ideas and information, and what strategic patterns of ideas and information?

A Note about Text Availability

Many contemporary speeches may be found in *Vital Speeches* in the library. Some of them are in microform. All presidential speeches are available in the *Weekly Compilation* in the government documents section of the library. Finding speeches is the student's responsibility, although many materials for the first and second critiques are on reserve in the library. The instructor can help supply items marked with an *asterisk. Such items are not on reserve and might be difficult to locate. Given the lead time between assignment and due dates, lack of success in finding a speech for critique is not an excuse for late presentation.

Students might discover other speeches or rhetorical artifacts that suit the purpose well. With approval of the instructor, one may use such other materials. To secure approval of the instructor, the student should submit a copy of the proposed item well before beginning work on it.

Speeches for Student Critiques

I. Campaign and the Rhetorical Presidency (Speeches marked with # are particularly appropriate to the study of campaign rhetoric.)

- *#Charles E. Coughlin, "A Third Party," 19 June 1936
- #Franklin D. Roosevelt, "First Inaugural," 4 March 1933
- #Adlai E. Stevenson, "Acceptance of the Democratic Nomination," 21 July 1952
- Dwight D. Eisenhower, "Liberty is at Stake," 17 January 1961
- John F. Kennedy, "The Berlin Crisis," 25 July 1961
- John F. Kennedy, "Cuban Missile Crisis," 22 October 1962
- Lyndon B. Johnson, "The Forward Thrust of America," 27 November 1963
- #Barry M. Goldwater, "Nomination Acceptance Speech," 16 July 1964
- #Ronald Reagan, "A Time for Choosing," 27 October 1964
- *#Eugene McCarthy, "On Vietnam," 16 October 1967
- *#Robert F. Kennedy, "Statement on the Death of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.," 4 April 1968 and "Speech to the Cleveland City Club," 5 April 1968
- #Richard M. Nixon, "Acceptance of the Republican Nomination," 8 August 1968
- *#Hubert Humphrey, "Salt Lake City Speech," 30 September 1968
- #Richard M. Nixon, "First Inaugural Address," 20 January 1969
- Spiro T. Agnew, "Television News Coverage," 13 November 1969
- Richard M. Nixon, "Cambodia," 30 April 1970
- Richard M. Nixon, "The Watergate Affair," 30 April 1973
- Richard M. Nixon, "Resignation Speech," 8 August 1974
- #Gerald M. Ford, "Republican National Convention Acceptance Speech," 19 August 1976
- Jimmy Carter, "The Crisis of Confidence," 15 July 1979
- #Geraldine Ferraro, "Convention Acceptance Address," 19 July 1984
- *#Marion G. (Pat) Robertson, "A New Vision for America," 17 September 1986
- *George Bush, "Economic Growth: Failure of Congress," 20 March 1992
- *#Bill Clinton, "A Strategy for Foreign Policy," 1 April 1992
- *#Al Gore, "Facing the Crisis of Spirit," 16 July 1992

#Dan Quayle, "Convention Acceptance Address," 20 August 1992
#William J. Clinton, "Inaugural Address," 20 January 1993.

II. The Irrepressible Conflict-The Civil War

Angelina Grimke, "Address at Pennsylvania Hall," 1838
Henry Clay, "The Compromise of 1850," 6 February 1850
John C. Calhoun, "The Slavery Question," 4 March 1850
Daniel Webster, "Seventh of March, 1850, Speech," 7 March 1850
Frederick Douglass, "The Fourth of July," 5 July 1852
James Henry Hammond, ". Mud-Sill' Speech," 4 March 1858
Abraham Lincoln, "A House Divided," 16 June 1858
Steven A. Douglas, "Campaign Speech for the United States Senate," 9 July 1858
Abraham Lincoln, "Campaign Speech for the United States Senate," 10 July 1858
William Lowndes Yancey, "For Southern Rights," 28 April 1860
Robert Toombs, "On Secession," 7 January 1861
Jefferson Davis, "Inaugural Address," 1861

III. Civil Rights for All Americans

Dwight D. Eisenhower, "Federal Court Orders Must Se Upheld," 24 September 1957
George C. Wallace, "First Gubernatorial Inaugural Address," 14 January 1963
George C. Wallace, "The Civil Rights Sill: Fraud, Sham, and Hoax," 4 July 1964
Stokely Carmichael, "Berkeley Speech," October 1966
Eldridge Cleaver, "Political Struggle in America," March 1968
Martin Luther King, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," 3 April 1968
John Bell Williams, "School Desegregation Problems," 3 January 1970

IV. The Long Night of Tyranny-World War II

Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Quarantine Speech," 5 October 1937
William E. Borah, "Our Imperative Task," 28 March 1938
Winston Churchill, "On the Munich Agreement," 5 October 1938
Robert A. Taft, "Let Us Stay Out of War," 22 January 1939
Adolf Hitler, "Germany Demands Its Rights," 1 April 1939
Adolf Hitler, "The Invasion of Poland," 1 September 1939
Franklin D. Roosevelt, "A Plea for Neutrality," 3 September 1939
Martin Dies, "The Challenge to Democracy," 17 September 1939
Burton K. Wheeler, "America's Present Emergency," 30 December 1940
Charles A. Lindbergh, "An Independent Policy," before US entered war, 1941

Franklin D. Roosevelt, "America's Answer to Japan's Challenge," 9 December 1941
Winston Churchill, "Address Before U. S. Congress," 26 December 1941
Franklin D. Roosevelt, "State of the Union," 15 January 1942

Speeches for Critique 3

Political Rhetoric

- Anthony, Susan B. "Is it a Crime for a U. S. Citizen to Vote?" 1872-73. Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, ed. *Man Cannot Speak for Her*. Vol. 2. New York: Greenwood P, 1989.
- Buchanan, Pat. "The Election is About Who We Are." Republican National Convention, 17 Aug.1992. *Vita/Speeches* 15 Sep.1992: 712-715.
- Clinton, Hilary. "Health Care: We Can Make a Difference." Chicago, 13 June 1993. *Vita/Speeches* 15 July 1993: 580-5.
- Cuomo, Mario. "Is Government Working?" 10 Sep.1990. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 314-321 *
- Dirksen, Everett M. "Atomic Test Ban Treaty." 11 September 1963. James R. Andrews And David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman,1992.155-62.*
- Dirksen, Everett M. "Nominating Speech for Barry Goldwater." 15 July 1964. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.176-9.*
- Eisenhower, Dwight D. "Atoms for Peace." 8 December 1953. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.50-4.
- Helms, Jesse. "The Uniting of the Silent Majority:" 15 May 1982. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.318-21. *
- Jackson, Jesse. "Common Ground and Common Sense." 17 July 1984. *Vital Speeches* 15 Aug. 1988: 649-52.
- Jackson, Jesse. "The Moral Center." Democratic National Convention. 14 July 1992. *Vital Speeches* 15 Aug. 1992: 652-4.

- Jackson, Jesse. "The Rainbow Coalition." 17 July 1976. *Vital Speeches* 15 Nov. 1976: 77-81.
- Johnson, Lyndon B. "Renunciation Speech." 31 March 1968. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.228-33.
- Jordan, Barbara. "Democratic Convention Keynote Address." 12 July 1976. *Vital Speeches* 15 Aug 1976: 645-6.
- Jordan, Barbara. "Statement of the Articles of Impeachment.1& 25 July 1974. John Louis Lucaites and Lawrence M. Bernabo, eds. *Great Speakers and Speeches*. 2nd ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 307-9. *
- Kennedy, Edward. "Incident at Chappaquiddick." 25 July 1969. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.262-4. *
- Kennedy, Edward. "Principles of the Democratic Party." 12 August 1980. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.291-5. *
- Luce, Clare Booth. " American Morality and Nuclear Diplomacy." 27 October 1961. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.56-63. *
- Long, Huey P. "Every Man a King." 23 February 1934. John Louis Lucaites and Lawrence M. Bernabo, eds. *Great Speakers and Speeches*. 2nd ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 219-24. *
- Long, Huey P. "Sharing our Wealth." 1935. James Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1640-1945*. New York: Longman, 1989. 447-9. *
- Reagan, Ronald. "America's Best Days Are Yet to Come." Republican National Convention. 17 Aug. 1992. *Vital Speeches* 15 Sep. 1992: 715-717.
- Reagan, Ronald. "Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, D-Day." 6 June 1984. *Administration of Ronald Reagan*, 1984. 817-20.
- Richards, Ann. "Keynote Address [to the Democratic National Convention]." 18 July 1988. *Vital Speeches of the Day*.

Roosevelt, Eleanor. "Address to the Americans for Democratic Action." 1 April 1950. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.24-6. *

Roosevelt, Eleanor. "The Struggle for Human Rights." 28 September 1948. Harold Ross Ryan, ed. *Contemporary American Public Discourse*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Pi 1992. 74-82. *

International Relations

Eisenhower, Dwight D. "Atoms for Peace." 8 December 1953. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.50-4.

Havel, Vaclav. "Address by His Excellency Vaclav Havel, President of The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic." 21 Feb. 1990. *Congressional Record* 21 Feb. 1990: 136.13.

Reagan, Ronald. "Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, D-Day." 6 June 1984. *Administration of Ronald Reagan*, 1984. 817-20.

Roosevelt, Eleanor. "The Struggle for Human Rights." 28 September 1948. Harold Ross Ryan, ed. *Contemporary American Public Discourse*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland P, 1992. 74-82. *

American Society, Morality, and Culture; Multiculturalism

Asante, Molefi Kete. "Imperatives of an Afrocentric Curriculum." 4 Feb. 1991. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 263-268. *

Coats, Dan. "The Virtue of Tolerance: Family Life is the Critical Center of Social Force." 5 June 1993. *Vital Speeches* 1 S Aug. 1993: 646-648.

Cuomo, Mario. "Religious Beliefs and Public Morality: A Catholic Governor's Perspective." 13 September 1984. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992. 329-37. *

Cuomo, Mario. "Teaching Values in Public Schools." 4 March 1987. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992.141-148. *

- Falwell, Jerry. "Address on Abortion." 28 June 1990. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 274-284. *
- Goldman, Emma. "Addres to the Jury." 9 July 1917. John Louis Lucaites and Lawrence M. Bernabo, eds. *Great Speakers and Speeches*. 2nd ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 189-95*
- Helms, Jesse. "The Uniting of the Silent Majority." 15 May 1982. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.318-21. *
- Jordan, Vernon E. "Under the Hammer: Freedom, justice, and Dignity." 4 May 1974. *Vital Speeches* 15 June 1974: 542-44.
- Kennedy, Edward. "Tolerance and Truth in America." 3 Oct. 1983. *Congressional Record* 7 Oct. 1983: 513876-78.
- Lefever, Ernest W. "Splitting America Apart: Reflections on *E Pluribus Unum*." 20 October 1993. *Vital Speeches* 15 Dec. 1993: 149-151.
- Luce, Clare Booth. "American Morality and Nuclear Diplomacy." 27 October 1961. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.56-63. *
- Pogue, Frank G. "The Future of Black Studies: Comments in Celebration of Black History Month." 5 February 1992. *Vital Speeches* 15 Jun. 1993: 536-540.
- Ravitch, Diane. "Multiculturalism in the Public Schools." 2 Nov. 1990. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992.258-262. *
- Roosevelt, Eleanor. "Address to the Americans for Democratic Action." 1 April 1950. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992.24-6. *
- Sanger, Margaret. "The Children's Era.II 1926. James Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1640-1945*. New York: Longman, 1989. 429-32. *
- Schlafly, Phyllis. "The Teaching of Values in the Public *Schools*.II 26 June 1987. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 150-156. *

Schmidt, Benno C., Jr. "False Harmony: The Debate over Freedom of Expression on America's Campuses." National Press Club, Washington, DC, 4 June 1991. *Vital Speeches*.

Shinagel, Michael. "Reflections on American Culture: Change and *E Pluribus Unum*." 1/29 May 1993. *Vital Speeches* 1 Sep. 1993: 698-701.

Feminism, Gender, Reproductive Rights

Anthony, Susan B. "Is it a Crime for a U. S. Citizen to Vote?" 1872-73. Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, ed. *Man Cannot Speak for Her*. Vol. 2. New York: Greenwood P, 1989.

Brownmiller, Susan. "Speaking Out on Prostitution." Albany, 1971. Anne Koedt, et al., eds. *Radical Feminism*. New York: Quadrangle, 1973. *

Davis, Angela. "We Do Not Consent: Violence Against Women in a Racist Society." Florida State University, Tallahassee, 16 October 1985. *Women Culture and Politics*, New York: Vintage, 1990.35-52. *

Dworkin, Andrea. "The Rape Atrocity and the Boy Next Door." State University of New York at Stony Brook, 1 March 1975. *Our Blood*. New York: Harper & Row, 1976.22-49. *

Falwell, Jerry. "Address on Abortion." 28 June 1990. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 274-284. *

Friedan, Betty. "The Crisis in Women's Identity." 1964. John Louis Lucaites and Lawrence M. Bernabo, eds. *Great Speakers and Speeches*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 289-94. *

Graham, Patricia A. "The Cult of True Womanhood." 13 Feb. 1983. *Vital Speeches* 15 Apr. 1983: 440-47.

Heide, Wilma Scott. "Tomorrow is NOW!" 17 February 1973. James R. Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *Contemporary American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1945-Present*. New York: Longman, 1992. 310-6. *

Sandler, Bernice. "Men and Women Getting Along: These Are Times That Try Men's Souls." 26 Mar. 1991. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 222-231.*

Sanger, Margaret. "The Children's Era." 1926. James Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1640-1945*. New York: Longman/ 1989. 429-32.

Smeal, Eleanor. "The Feminization of Power." 8 July 1987. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 244-249.*

St. James, Margot. "The Reclamation of Whores." Laurie Bell, ed. *Good Girls/Bad Girls*. Seattle: Seal, 1981. 81-87. *

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady. "Solitude of Self." 1892. James Andrews and David Zarefsky, eds. *American Voices: Significant Speeches in American History-1640-1945*. New York: Longman, 1989.360-7. *

Steinem, Gloria. "Tufts University Commencement Speech." 17 May 1987. Harold Ross Ryan, ed. *Contemporary American Public Discourse*. 3rd ed. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland P, 1992. 359-64.*

Wattleton, Faye. "Planned Parenthood and Pro *Choice*." 11 9 March 1992. *Vital Speeches* 15 June 1992: 524-527.

Wattleton, Faye. "Sacred Rights: Preserving Reproductive Freedom for Women." 25 June 1990. Richard L. Johannesen, R. R. Allen, and Wil A. Linkugel, eds. *Contemporary American Speeches* 7th ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1992. 269-273. *

Wolfe, Helen 8. "The Backlash Phenomenon: The Equal Rights Amendment." June 1976. *Vital Speeches* 15 Aug. 1976: 669-72.

Gay/Lesbian Rights, AIDS

Celeste, Dagmar. " Address to Stonewall Cincinnati Annual Dinner ." Cincinnati, OH, 23 April 1990. *

Clinton, William Jefferson. "Remarks by the President at World AIDS Day Event," 1 December 1993.

Fierstein, Harvey. " A Twelve-Step Program Guaranteed to Change Your Life," Commencement Speech to the Bennington College Class of 1992.*

Fisher, Mary. "Speech [on AIDS] to the Republican National Convention," 19 August 1992. *

Gearhart, Sally. "The Lesbian and God-the-Father." Berkeley, CA, February 1972.
Herbert W. Simmons. *Persuasion: Understanding Practice, and Analysis*. Reading, MA:
Addison- Wesley, 1976. 338-42. *

Geslin, Dan. "Responding to the Right and to Racism." Annual Meeting of Cleveland
Lesbian/Gay Community Service Center, 27 October 1993. *Cleveland Gay People's
Chronicle* 12 Nov. 1993: 12+. *

Kerry, Robert. "Floor Statement on Lifting the Ban on Gays in the Military," 15 July
1993. *Congressional Record*.

Nunn, Sam. "Floor Statement on Lifting Ban on Gays in the Military," 16 July 1993.
Congressional Record.

Monette, Paul. "The Politics of Silence," National Book Award Speech. *New York Times*.
7 March 1993.

Vaid, Urvashi. "Speech to the Gay/lesbian Rights March on Washington," 25 April
1993.*

Inspirational

Conwell, Russell, "Acres of Diamonds," (18705 -1924). John Louis Lucaites and
Lawrence Mark Bernabo, eds. *Great Speeches and Speakers* 2nd ed. Dubuque, IA:
Kendall/Hunt, 1992: 146-59.*

Cuomo, Mario. "Keynote Address." 17 July 1984. *Vital Speeches* 15 Aug. 1984: 646-49.

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Convention. 17 Aug. 1992. *Vital Speeches* 15 Sep. 1992: 715-717.