

EXTREMISM IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY IS NO VICE

- *Focus of Speech.* Goldwater defines the Republican Party as a party that promotes freedom and peace and attempts to halt tyranny. He shows how the Republican Party success in securing freedom and peace—through military strength, through law and order, through an understanding that God is the author of freedom, through resisting concentrations of power, through standing strong against communism, and through fostering private property.

- Rhetorical Devices and Figures of Speech

Be able to discuss the purpose of the rhetorical devices.

- * metaphor: “stagnate in the swampland of collectivism, not to cringe before the bullying of communism.” Here collectivism is compared to a swampland.
- * alliteration: *stagnate* in the *swampland* of collectivism, not to *cringe* before the bullying of *communism*.
- * polysyndeton: It has talked *and* talked *and* talked *and* talked the words of freedom, but it has failed *and* failed *and* failed in the works of freedom.
- * asyndeton: “Balance, diversity, creative difference: these are the elements of the Republican equation.”
- * ploc: It has *talked* and *talked* and *talked* and *talked* the words of freedom, but it has *failed* and *failed* and *failed* in the works of freedom.
- * antithesis: It has talked and talked and talked and talked the *words* of freedom, but it has failed and failed and failed in the *works* of freedom.
- * epistrophe: It has talked and talked and talked and talked the words of *freedom*, but it has failed and failed and failed in the works of *freedom*.
- * anaphora: Failures cement the wall of shame in Berlin. Failures blot . . . Failures mark . . . Failures infest . . . And failures haunt the houses . . .
- * allusion: “we do no man a service by hiding freedom’s light under a bushel of mistaken identity”

HILLARY CLINTON’S SPEECH AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

- *Focus of Speech.* Besides attempting to campaign for her husband for president, Hillary Clinton is expanding the Health Care Leave Act, and demonstrating how the bill if made into law, can foster better communities. The focus of the speech appears toward the conclusion in which Clinton declares that “It takes a village.”
- Rhetorical Devices and Figures of Speech
Be able to discuss the purpose of the rhetorical devices.

- * *Pathos.* Hillary Clinton pulls at the heartstrings by talking about family life and taking care of children. She tries to gain a rapport with the audience by talking about things specifically related to Chicago, like Binto and Dennis Rodman. Appealing to emotions, it seems, is often more effective than presenting logical arguments. Teachers may read the speeches made by Brutus and Antony in Shakespeare’s tragedy *Julius Caesar* (Act 3, Scene 2) as an illustration. While Brutus gives logical reasons why Caesar’s death was necessary, Antony, with great rhetorical flourish appeals to the citizens’ emotions and sways them completely to his side, fomenting an angry, frenzied mob set on doing violence. He also resorts to “bribe” the mob to his side by mentioning the will.
- * *Ethos.* She wants to bridge the gulf between her and her audience by mentioning about her wish to talk across the “kitchen table” and that she, like her audience, is a mother with a child to care for. She wants to soften her hard image to make herself seem more qualified in talking about caring for families.
- * alliteration: “to raise a happy, healthy, and hopeful child”
- * anaphora: “. . . it takes family. It takes teachers. It takes clergy. It takes business people. It takes community leaders. It takes those who protect our healthy and safety. It takes all of us. Yes, it takes a village. And it takes a president.”

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY RONALD REAGAN

- *Focus of Speech.* Ronald Reagan’s speech bursts with optimism. One of his hallmarks, in fact was his unflinching optimism in a sea of skeptics who were negative about America. His inauguration speech may be summarized as follows. Though are faced with many difficulties—failing economy, a bloated deficit, and soaring inflation—Americans can, with the help of God, solve these problems.
- Rhetorical Devices and Figures of Speech
Be able to discuss the purpose of the rhetorical devices.
 - * *allusion:* “From time to time, we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to *government for, by, and of the people.*” The allusion is to Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. “We hear much of special interest groups. Our concern must be for a special interest group that has been too long neglected . . . It is made up of men and women who raise our food, patrol our streets . . . They are, in short, “*We the people,*” this breed called Americans.” Here Reagan makes an allusion to the Preamble of the Constitution. By making allusions to these long-held-sacred documents, Ronald Reagan lends a solemnity to his speech and a respect to what he is saying.

“We are a nation under God.” The statement is an allusion to the pledge of allegiance.

- * *isocolon*: “Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope.”
- * *metaphor*: And as we renew ourselves here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world. We will again be the exemplar of freedom and a *beacon of hope* for those who do not now have freedom. A central part of Reagan’s speech, which resonated in his farewell speech, is that America is a city set on a hill for the world to see. The city set on a hill work written by John Winthrop, expressing the settlers need to act worthy in the sight of God. Although the focus shifted from righteousness to freedom, the idea of America being an example to the world, particularly a “beacon of hope” continued throughout the 20th century. Barack Obama, in fact, cited the Puritan in a speech that he gave to the University of Massachusetts at Boston Commencement in which he said, “It was right here, in the waters around us, where the American experiment began. As the earliest settlers arrived on the shores of Boston and Salem and Plymouth, they dreamed of building a City upon a Hill. And the world watched, waiting to see if this improbable idea called America would succeed.”¹
- * *anaphora*: “We will match loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on their sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale.” The repetition of the words “we will” expresses resolution.
- * *antimetabole*: “All of us need to be reminded that the Federal Government did not create the States; the States created the Federal Government.”

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY JOHN F. KENNEDY

- *Focus of Speech*. The focus of JFK is undoubtedly freedom. Delivering the speech in the midst of the Cold War, JFK uses many rhetorical devices to emphasize the need for America to defend its freedom. In the speech JFK addresses the threat of nuclear war, the need for both strength and civility, a search for common ground between the Communist enemies and the United States, but the grave need to defend freedom “in its hour of maximum danger.” Like Ronald Reagan, he views America as an example to the world, particularly in leading it to freedom: “The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.”

• Rhetorical Devices and Figures of Speech

Be able to discuss the purpose of the rhetorical devices.

- * *antithesis and isocolon*: “We observe today not a victory of party, but a celebration of freedom—symbolizing an end, as well as a beginning—signifying renewal, as well as change.” “United, there is little we cannot do in a host of cooperative ventures. Divided, there is little we can do—for we dare not meet a powerful challenge at odds and split asunder.” In this quotation, JFK is referring to the NATO alliance, mostly made up of Western Europe. “If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.” “We dare not tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed.”
- * *asyndeton*: “Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.” “The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.”
- * *antimetabole*: “Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.” “And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”
- * *allusion*: Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need; not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, “*rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation*” . . .
- * *alliteration*: “With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.”
- * *personification*: “In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger.”

¹ Best Speeches of Barack Obama through his 2009 Inauguration. <http://obamaspeeches.com/074-University-of-Massachusetts-at-Boston-Commencement-Address-Obama-Speech.htm>. Accessed January 31, 2022.