

Patrick Henry's Speech to the Virginia Convention – ANNOTATION EXAMPLE

Examine the speech by going from paragraph to paragraph and identifying the rhetorical elements and choices for each.

RHETORICAL CHOICE

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

PARAGRAPH 1

<p style="text-align: center;">Metaphor(s)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "question of freedom or slavery" 2. "majesty in heaven" 3. to debate = to arrive at truth, but to ignore = treason & disloyalty ("great responsibility we have to God and country") 	<p style="text-align: center;">What is being <i>suggested</i> by the comparisons?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. British rule = form of enslavement; we must consider our current circumstances just as extreme, especially if we do not act soon 2. <u>God</u> is ruler of men, <u>not</u> King George III 3. We can't be disloyal to <u>God's</u> plan for us; His plan = to the responsibility we have to our country; therefore, we must debate this issue now
<p style="text-align: center;">Diction/Syntax</p> <p>Patriotism / treason Freedom / slavery Fulfill responsibility / disloyalty Majesty in heaven / earthly kings Hold back / speak freely</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What patterns or similarities do you notice?</p> <p>Opposites and contrasts: Freedom = God's plan Tyranny = slavery Either / or choices Christian devotion</p>

PARAGRAPH 2

<p style="text-align: center;">Allusions</p> <p>"[indulge in the illusions of hope. . . . shut our eyes against a painful truth, and] ¹listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts."</p> <p>³having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What is the reference/allusion <i>suggesting</i>?</p> <p>¹allusion to <i>The Odyssey</i>: sirens sing a song so irresistible that none can hear it & escape. Henry warns that there is danger in ignoring the truth & holding onto hope. (appeal to <i>logos</i>)</p> <p>³Biblical allusion – a reference in Ezekiel 12:2 to foolish / senseless people; makes colonists feel as though God is on their side. (appeal to <i>pathos</i>)</p>
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