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Rhetorical Devices in Speeches

In speeches, speakers use many rhetorical devices to appeal to their audience and better connect the audience with them while they are speaking. They evoke an emotional response in the audience through the use of language. Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa use many of them throughout their Nobel Prize acceptance speeches. Nelson Mandela uses repetition in his speech to emphasize that apartheid will be eradicated from South Africa. Mother Teresa uses Ethos to connect the relationship between the poor and God by referencing the bible. She uses this to also build credibility by including well-respected sources. They both use Pathos to create an emotional appeal to help make their speeches appeal to their audiences, which helps them better connect with them. Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa use rhetorical devices such as repetition, pathos, and ethos, to create emphasis and appeal to better connect with their audiences during their speeches.

Nelson Mandela uses repetition, by continuously repeating the word *reward*, in his speech to create emphasis that the hard work of the anti-apartheid movement will pay off. One of the times he does this is when he says “*The reward of which we have spoken will and must also be measured by happiness and welfare of the mothers and fathers of these children, who must walk the earth without fear of being robbed, killed for political or material profit, or spat upon because they are beggars.*” The positive connotation of the word evokes hope for the

audience. It helps him communicate his message to the audience, that apartheid will be eradicated from South Africa. The audience is given hope that this is possible, similar to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Mother Teresa, in her speech, uses Ethos. Ethos is when the author builds credibility by including well-respected sources. She says "*How can you love God whom you do not see if you do not love your neighbor whom you see, whom you touch, with whom you live. And so this is very important for us to realize that love, to be true, has to hurt.*" She uses this device to connect the relationship between the poor and God and to also establish an emotional appeal with the audience. This helps the audience better connect with Mother Teresa when she is speaking.

Both Mandela and Mother Teresa use Pathos in both of their speeches. Mandela says "*The children must, at last, play in the open veld, no longer tortured by the pangs of hunger or ravaged by disease or threatened with the scourge of ignorance, molestation and abuse, and no longer required to engage in deeds whose gravity exceeds the demand of their tender years.*" He uses emotional appeal in that statement to appeal to his audience's emotions, to help them appeal to his speech. Mother Teresa uses this device to create emotional appeal when she says "*When I pick up a person from the street, hungry, I give him a plate of rice, a piece of bread, I have satisfied. I have removed that hunger. But a person that is shut out, that feels unwanted, unloved, terrified, the person that has been thrown out from society – that poverty is so hurttable and so much, and I find that very difficult.*" She uses stories like this to do much like what Mandela did in his speech, to appeal to her audience's emotions. By doing that, it helps make her audience appeal to her speech.

Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa use rhetorical devices that include repetition, ethos, and pathos in their Nobel Prize acceptance speeches to appeal to their audiences and to help their

audiences connect with them while they are speaking. Nelson Mandela uses repetition in his speech to emphasize the fact that the work of the anti-apartheid movement will eventually pay off. Mother Teresa uses Ethos in her speech to connect the relationship between the poor and God and to also create an emotional appeal through stories. They both use Pathos in their speeches to create emotional appeal, to appeal to the audience's emotions, and help to connect their audiences with them while they are speaking. These rhetorical devices help get their point across effectively to their audiences, to give optimism, hope, and love.