

Lesson Name : 25

Lesson Title : Nelson Mandela's Nobel Peace Prize Lecture Section 1

Course Name : English 2 Part 1 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read Nelson Mandela's Nobel Peace Prize [lecture](#) from the beginning through the line "...any person's human right should be violated."

It is a good idea to use your digital notebook to keep notes on new vocabulary and definitions that you may need to refer to later.



Analyzing a Speech

Analyzing a speech can sound like a daunting task, but it's really just a step-by-step process. Once you understand that process, you'll find that it's much easier to evaluate a speaker's argument and style.

Summarizing

The first thing to do when analyzing a speech is to read the speech and understand the main ideas that the speaker is trying to communicate. One thing that can help you do this is summarizing the speech.

Summarizing is the act of breaking down what you have read into the key details. Summarizing is a powerful reading strategy to help you recall important information from a text you just read. As you read the first section of Nelson Mandela's speech, look for key ideas to include in your summary.

After reading the first section of Nelson Mandela's speech, several key concepts should have stood out to you. Mandela is humbled and grateful to be recognized as a leader for peace, among the many people he respects and admires. He also realizes he did not win his battles alone, but that he received help and support from other governments and countries.

Research

Doing research can also help you to analyze a speech. Understanding the historical context of the speech as well as any evidence the author provides to prove a point can help you better evaluate the validity of the author's argument.

Mandela lived during a volatile, or violent, historical period that influenced him and his writing. South Africa was under a political system known as apartheid, in which blacks and whites were segregated based on race. Mandela was part of the struggle to end this political system. At around the same time in history, the United States was experiencing its own struggle for equality. As you read, see if you notice any references to the influences these historical events may have had on Mandela and his writing.

Analyzing a literary work by using the philosophical, political, religious, ethical, and social influences of a historical period helps you to better understand the major concepts in a work. Mandela was raised in rural South Africa and was well educated. He grew up to fight the injustices of the apartheid political system in South Africa and was imprisoned for over 30 years as a result. In recognition of his tireless efforts to abolish, or get rid of, apartheid and bring about equality for all South Africans, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Knowing this information about Nelson Mandela can help you to better understand the content of his speech.

When analyzing a speech, it is also important to consider the author's evidence. What evidence does the author provide? Is it relevant to the central argument? Is that evidence based on fact or opinion? A good way to determine this is to educate yourself about the argument that the speaker makes. To do this, you may need to complete some research, which is why it is important to understand the types of sources you will see.

Primary sources are documents or speeches provided by a person who witnessed or participated in an event. **Secondary sources** are secondhand accounts based on what someone else has reported. The author of a secondary source was not involved in the event discussed in the primary source. To enhance your reading experience, you may want to search for secondary sources about Nelson Mandela or the apartheid system in South Africa. Reading secondary sources is a great way to gain background information, which you can use to evaluate Mandela's argument and evidence. While you read Mandela's speech, keep in mind the information you gathered from secondary sources. Use both the primary source (the speech) and the secondary sources to draw conclusions about Mandela's argument.

Rhetorical Devices

Once you understand the main ideas in the speech, you can move on to analyzing the speaker's methods of communicating these ideas. These methods include examining the speaker's use of rhetorical devices. A **rhetorical device** is a technique that the author uses to convey meaning or persuade the reader.

When you talk about a speaker's use of rhetoric, you're looking at the techniques the speaker uses to communicate ideas. This includes devices such as logical, emotional, and ethical appeals; the use of repetition; and the use of rhetorical questions.

Mandela uses a few different rhetorical devices in his speech. Examine the table below to see how Mandela uses some of these devices in his speech.

Passage	Rhetorical Device	Analysis
"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 demands of their tender years."	Emotional/ethical appeal	This line from Mandela's speech could be considered both an emotional and ethical appeal. Mandela appeals to his audience's emotions and consciences by speaking about the conditions experienced by children in South Africa.

Reward	Repetition	Throughout the beginning of his speech, Mandela repeats the word <i>reward</i> multiple times. This serves two purposes. First, it emphasizes that the hard work of the anti-apartheid movement will pay off. Second, the positive connotation of the word evokes hope for the audience. This helps Mandela to communicate his message to the reader: the idea that apartheid can be eradicated from South Africa.
"I am also here today as a representative of the millions of people across the globe, the anti-apartheid movement, the governments and organisations that joined with us, not to fight against South Africa as a country or any of its peoples, but to oppose an inhuman system and sue for a speedy end to the apartheid crime against humanity."	Logical appeal	In this line, Mandela reminds his audience that apartheid is not an issue fought in one place by one person; it is a global cause and fight. This appeal to logic helps to solidify the importance of the work of the anti-apartheid movement.

This is just a small sample of the rhetorical devices that Mandela uses in his speech. Can you find others?

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[Open Video in New Tab](#)



Vocabulary

Understanding the words used in a text can enhance your understanding of the text. Here are some words from the first part of Nelson Mandela's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech:

1. **humbled** – adj. – not proud or arrogant; modest
2. **compatriot** – noun – fellow countryman or countrywoman
3. **laureate** – noun – a person who has been honored for achieving distinction in a particular field or with a particular award
4. **apartheid** – noun – (in the Republic of South Africa) a rigid policy of segregation of the nonwhite population
5. **dichotomy** – noun – division into two mutually exclusive, opposed, or contradictory groups
6. **decency** – adj. – conformity to the recognized standard of propriety, good taste, modesty
7. **pangs** – noun – sudden sharp spasms of pain
8. **scourge** – noun – a cause of affliction or calamity