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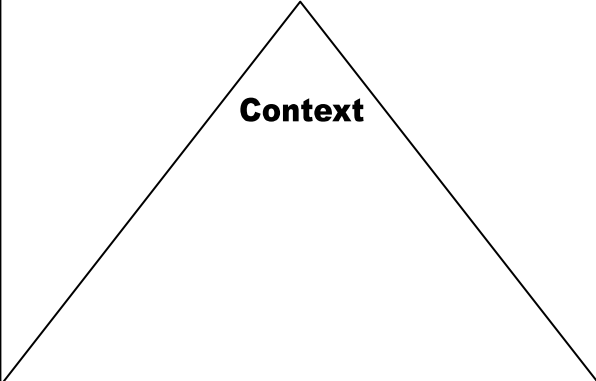
Period: _____

“Speech to the Virginia Convention”

Patrick Henry – March 23, 1775

Literary Work and Style—Patrick Henry is most remembered for his powerful persuasive oratory.

- While other orators preached patience, Henry urged fighting against the British with both logical and emotional appeals.
 - With logical appeals, Henry persuaded the audience members to understand his point of view through common sense, specific evidence, and reasonable explanations.
 - With emotional appeals, Henry persuaded the audience members to understand his point of view through suggestive imagery and diction, idealized explanations, and a powerful personal connection to the audience.
- Henry’s speeches were made more powerful through the use of specific rhetorical techniques. Henry made extensive use of:
 - Repetition
 - Allusions
 - Rhetorical Questions
 - Parallel Structure

Subject:		
Speaker:		Audience:
Purpose:		

RHETORICAL ANALYSIS

Directions: After listening to Patrick Henry’s incendiary speech, analyze the rhetorical strategies he uses to incite listeners to action against Britain.

For each section:

1. paraphrase the text, capturing the entire meaning.
2. Read the rhetorical strategies and examples in the context of the speech (Provided for you)
3. Analyze the effect of the rhetorical strategies.
 - What is his purpose? How do his listeners feel?*
 - What reaction does he want? What is he trying to emphasize?*
4. Each group will be responsible for a section, but each individual is responsible for completing all sections based on group presentations...so put your listening ears on. We will analyze the first paragraph together to model the process.

PARAGRAPH 1

PARAPHRASE:

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Appeal to ethos (credibility)	“No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House.”	
Appeal to ethos (credibility)	“But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely and without reserve.”	
Appeal to ethos (credibility)	“Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country”	
Appeal to ethos (morals)	“guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.”	
Powerful Comparison	“freedom or slavery”	
Powerful Diction	“truth, and fulfill the great responsibility”	

PARAGRAPH 2

PARAPHRASE:

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Figurative Language	“illusions of hope”	
Imagery	“We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth”	
Allusion to Homer’s <i>Odyssey</i>	“listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts”	
Rhetorical Question	“Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty?”	

Allusion to Ezekiel 12:2 (Ethos)	“Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation?”	
Parallelism	“I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.”	
Powerful Diction	“arduous struggle for liberty”	

PARAGRAPH 3

PARAPHRASE:

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Metaphor	“I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience.”	
Appeal to Logos (Logic)	“I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past.”	
Rhetorical Question	“Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received?”	
Metaphor	“Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet.”	
Allusion to Christian New Testament	“Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss.”	
Imagery	“Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with those warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land.”	
Rhetorical Questions	Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled that force must be called in to win back our love?	
Powerful Diction	“war and subjugation” “submission” “motive” “accumulation of navies and armies”	

PARAGRAPH 3.5

PARAPHRASE:

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Imagery (metaphor)	“They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging.”	
Rhetorical Questions	“And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument?”	
Considering Opposition/ Rhetorical ?	“Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject?”	
One-word Sentence	“Nothing.”	
Appeal to ethos	“Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves.”	
Metaphor	“Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on.”	
Parallelism	“We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne”	
Imagery	“have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament.”	
Parallelism	“Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded”	
Exclamatory Sentence	“we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne!”	
Parallelism	“If we wish to be free-- if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending--if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged”	
Repetition	“we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight!”	
Powerful Diction	“noble struggle” “pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained”	

PARAGRAPH 4

PARAPHRASE:

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Rhetorical Questions	“But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction?”	
Imagery	“Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot?”	
Appeal to Pathos (Religion)	“Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave.”	
Appeal to Logos (logic)	“Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest.”	
Imagery	Our chains are forged!	
Allusion to Current Event	Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable--and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.”	
Repetition	“let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come”	

PARAGRAPH 5

PARAPHRASE:

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Exclamatory Sentence	“The war is actually begun!”	
Imagery	“The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms!”	
Rhetorical Questions	“Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?”	
Reference to God	“Forbid it, Almighty God!”	
Appeal to Ethos (credibility)	I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!	