

Pathos



★ Appeals to the emotions of the audience

How to identify pathos in a piece of nonfiction writing:

- When evaluating pathos it is important to ask whether a piece of the text causes the audience to feel a certain emotional way
- You are looking for the elements of the text that might cause the audience to feel (or not feel) an emotional connection to the content
- Quote must be 5 words or less

Potential emotions pathos could cause

- Sympathy
- Guilt
- Fear
- Anger
- Optimism
- Skepticism
- indignation

MLK, "I have a Dream" speech

"But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition."

Pathos because:

- Potential to make the audience feel sympathy/compassion/sensitivity for black Americans
- Specific audiences could include: racist Americans, policy and law makers, government officials, and white bystanders.

Barack Obama, Keynote address at the 2004 DNC

"It's the hope of slaves sitting around a fire singing freedom songs; the hope of immigrants setting out for distant shores; the hope of a young naval lieutenant bravely patrolling the Mekong Delta; the hope of a millworker's son who dares to defy the odds; the hope of a skinny kid with a funny name who believes that America has a place for him, too."

Pathos because:

- Potential to make the audience feel enthusiastic and hopeful about what America has to offer
- Specific audiences could include: distressed immigrants, hard-working middle class, hopeful Americans