

UNPACKING the TEKS | **S** E2.8(G), **S** E2.4(E), **R** E2.4(F), **R** E2.5(C)

A **rhetorical device** is a technique that an author or speaker uses to persuade an audience. An author uses rhetorical devices to convey a message in a way that captures the attention of the audience and provokes a response.

Rhetorical devices include **appeals**, which authors use to persuade or convince readers to agree with their points of view or to take some sort of action. In general, there are three types of appeals.

- **Logos** appeals to logic or reason by using facts or data.
- **Pathos** appeals to emotion, often using biased or emotional language.
- **Ethos** appeals to a sense of what is moral or right.

Other rhetorical devices include the following.

- **Antithesis** pairs opposite or contrasting ideas in the same sentence and/or with a similar grammatical structure. Examples: “to be or not to be” or “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.”
- **Parallelism** calls attention to ideas using similar grammatical structures. As an example, look at the structure of the adage: “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.”
- **Repetition** calls attention to ideas through the repetition of a word, phrase, or even a sentence. A classic example is Martin Luther King’s repetition of the phrase “I have a dream” in his famous speech.
- **Alliteration** is the repetition of consonant sounds (busy as a bee) and **assonance**, the repetition of vowel sounds (Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam).
- **Figurative language** is the use of similes, metaphors, personification, and hyperbole.
- **Allusion** is a reference to a person, event, or thing from outside the current text.

Another rhetorical device to look or listen for is a **rhetorical shift**, in which the writer changes the tone or mood. For example, authors may go from being serious to using sarcasm; or they may introduce humor. An author may also switch from using long sentences with floral language to short, emphatic sentences. Sometimes, a transition word, phrase, or sentence signals a rhetorical shift.

When you listen to or read a persuasive essay, it is important to listen for **logical fallacies**, which are errors in reasoning or false arguments. Fallacies can be illegitimate arguments or irrelevant points. You can often identify fallacies by noting claims or reasons that do not have sufficient relevant supporting evidence. You can also look for errors in reasoning, such as the suggestion that there is a causal relationship where none exists.

► Words to Know

rhetorical device
 appeal
 logos
 pathos
 ethos
 antithesis
 parallelism
 repetition
 alliteration
 assonance
 figurative language
 allusion
 rhetorical shift
 logical fallacy

GUIDED PRACTICE

DIRECTIONS Read the selection below. Follow the instructions and answer the questions in the side column. They will help you understand how to read to master the TEKS.

President Barack Obama Speech on the Bombing at the Boston Marathon, April 18, 2013

- 1 Scripture tells us to “run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Run with endurance the race that is set before us.
- 2 On Monday morning, the sun rose over Boston. The sunlight glistened off the Statehouse dome. In the Common and the Public Garden, spring was in bloom. On this Patriot’s Day, like so many before, fans jumped onto the T to see the Sox at Fenway. In Hopkinton, runners laced up their shoes and set out on a 26.2-mile test of dedication and grit and the human spirit. And across this city, hundreds of thousands of Bostonians lined the streets—to hand the runners cups of water and to cheer them on.
- 3 It was a beautiful day to be in Boston—a day that explains why a poet once wrote that this town is not just a capital, not just a place. Boston, he said, “is the perfect state of grace.” And then, in an instant, the day’s beauty was shattered. A celebration became a tragedy. And so we come together to pray, and mourn, and measure our loss. But we also come together today to reclaim that state of grace—to reaffirm that the spirit of this city is undaunted, and the spirit of this country shall remain undimmed.
- 4 I’m here today on behalf of the American people with a simple message: Every one of us has been touched by this attack on your beloved city. Every one of us stands with you. Because, after all, it’s our beloved city, too. Boston may be your hometown, but we claim it, too. It’s one of America’s iconic cities. It’s one of the world’s great cities. And one of the reasons the world knows Boston so well is that Boston opens its heart to the world.

Guided Questions

What two rhetorical techniques are used in paragraph 1?

What purpose do the rhetorical devices in paragraph 1 serve?

Underline the sentence in paragraph 3 that is an example of antithesis.

Circle the phrases in the last sentence in paragraph 3 that are an example of parallelism.

Circle the words Obama uses in paragraph 4 to show how he feels about Boston.



5 Over successive generations, you've welcomed again and again new arrivals to our shores—immigrants who constantly reinvigorated this city and this commonwealth and our nation. Every fall, you welcome students from all across America and all across the globe, and every spring you graduate them back into the world—a Boston diaspora that excels in every field of human endeavor. Year after year, you welcome the greatest talents in the arts and science, research—you welcome them to your concert halls and your hospitals and your laboratories to exchange ideas and insights that draw this world together. So whether folks come here to Boston for just a day, or they stay here for years, they leave with a piece of this town tucked firmly into their hearts. So Boston is your hometown, but we claim it a little bit, too.

6 I know this because there's a piece of Boston in me. You welcomed me as a young law student across the river; welcomed Michelle, too. You welcomed me during a convention when I was still a state senator and very few people could pronounce my name right.

7 Like you, Michelle and I have walked these streets. Like you, we know these neighborhoods. And like you, in this moment of grief, we join you in saying—"Boston, you're my home." For millions of us, what happened on Monday is personal. It's personal. As you begin this long journey of recovery, your city is with you. Your commonwealth is with you. Your country is with you. We will all be with you as you learn to stand and walk and, yes, run again. Of that I have no doubt. You will run again. You will run again.

Guided Questions

Circle the words or phrases that are repeated in paragraph 5 used to describe Boston.

How does the metaphor of having "a piece of [Boston] tucked firmly into their hearts" affect meaning?

CRITICAL THINKING

DIRECTIONS Reread the selection. Mark it up as you would like. Then answer the following questions.

1. Which kind of appeal does President Obama use most in this speech? How does this affect his message?



2. How would you describe the tone of the speech?

3. How does the use of antithesis in paragraph 3 affect meaning?

4. What does President Obama mean in paragraph 6 when he says, "there's a piece of Boston in me"? How does this advance his message?

5. How does repetition in the last paragraph affect meaning?

STAMPED

★ PRACTICE

DIRECTIONS Read the selection below and choose the best answer to each question.

Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream"

- 1 Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.
- 2 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.
- 3 In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."
- 4 But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.
- 5 We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.
- 6 It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. And there will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.
- 7 But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom



★ PRACTICE

by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

- 8 The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.
- 9 And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.
- 10 Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends. And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.
- 11 I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."
- 12 I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.
- 13 I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.
- 14 I have a dream today!
- 15 I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification"—one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.
- 16 I have a dream today!
- 17 I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together." This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.
- 18 With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.
- 19 And this will be the day—this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:
*My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,
of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died,
land of the Pilgrim's pride, From every
mountainside, let freedom ring!*
- 20 And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.



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- 21 And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.
- 22 Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.
- 23 Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.
- 24 Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.
- 24 Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.
- 25 But not only that:
- 26 Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.
- 27 Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.
- 28 Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.
- 29 From every mountainside, let freedom ring.
- 30 And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:
Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!





★ PRACTICE

- 1** Which sentence from the beginning of this speech is an example of antithesis?
- A** *Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation.* (paragraph 1)
 - B** *This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice.* (paragraph 1)
 - C** *It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.* (paragraph 1)
 - D** *But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free.* (paragraph 2)
- 2** The main purpose of the allusion to the Constitution and Declaration of Independence in paragraph 3 is to —
- A** offer evidence in support of the argument
 - B** compare and contrast past and present circumstances
 - C** introduce a counterargument that is later refuted
 - D** gain credibility by showing a deep understanding of American history
- 3** Which type of rhetorical appeal does Dr. King use most effectively in paragraph 17?
- A** Ethos
 - B** Logos
 - C** Pathos
 - D** Logical fallacies

- 4** Starting with which paragraph is there a rhetorical shift?
- A** Paragraph 2
 - B** Paragraph 5
 - C** Paragraph 17
 - D** Paragraph 21
- 5** In paragraphs 11 through 17, repetition and parallelism are used to —
- A** issue a call to action
 - B** express hope for the future
 - C** emphasize challenges for future generations
 - D** compare and contrast the past, present, and future
- 6** Provide examples of how Dr. King appeals to ethics or morals and explain the impact.
