

SOAR Curricular Material #15

Read the following speech given by President Wilson and answer the questions that follow using textual evidence to support your responses.

The Message of the President to the Students Army Training Corps (Speech--October 1918)

The step that you have taken is a most significant one. By it you have ceased to be merely individuals, each seeking to perfect his self to win his own place in the world, and have become comrades in the common cause of making the world a better place to live in. You have joined yourselves with the entire manhood of the country, and pledged as did your forefathers, “your lives, your fortunes, and your sacred honor” to the freedom of humanity. The enterprise upon which you have embarked is a hazardous and difficult one. *This is not a war of words; this is not a scholastic struggle: It is a war of ideals, yet fought with all the devices of science and with the power of machines.* To succeed you must not only be inspired by the ideals for which this country stands, but you must also be masters of the technique with which the battle is fought. You must not only be thrilled with zeal for the common welfare, but you must also be masters of the weapons of today. There can be no doubt of the issue. The spirit that is revealed and the manner in which America has responded to the call is indomitable. I have no doubt that you too will use your utmost strength to maintain that spirit and to carry it forward to the final victory that will certainly be ours.

~~Woodrow Wilson
October 1, 1918

Speech Analysis Questions

- 1) Identify the speaker and audience of the text.
 - a. Speaker—
 - b. Audience—
- 2) What do you know about the speaker of the text? How might this information affect the tone and perspective of the text and how it is received by the audience?
- 3) *“This is not a war of words; this is not a scholastic struggle: It is a war of ideals, yet fought with all the devices of science and with the power of machines.”*

How does this statement help us contextualize the source? What background information does this statement give us?

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- 4) What events in WWI had taken or were taking place at the time this speech was given?
Why would this information be important to know?
- 5) What is the purpose of this message?
- 6) What is the main idea of this message? What is the speaker trying to say?
- 7) What characteristics does the speaker say an individual must have to succeed in the war?
- 8) Use the following chart on Aristotle's three modes of persuasion to help you answer the next question. Use textual evidence to support your answer(s).

<u>Emotional Appeal:</u> These are appeals to the emotions of the audience. PATHOS	<u>Logical Appeal:</u> These are appeals to logic and fact, or to the power of reason. LOGOS	<u>Ethical Appeal:</u> These are appeals based on the credibility and manner of the speaker. ETHOS
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- a. How is each of these persuasive techniques or appeals prevalent in this source?
 - i. Emotional Appeal (**PATHOS**)--
 - ii. Logical Appeal (**LOGOS**)--
 - iii. Ethical Appeal (**ETHOS**)--
- b. What is the main persuasive technique used in this message? How do you know this?