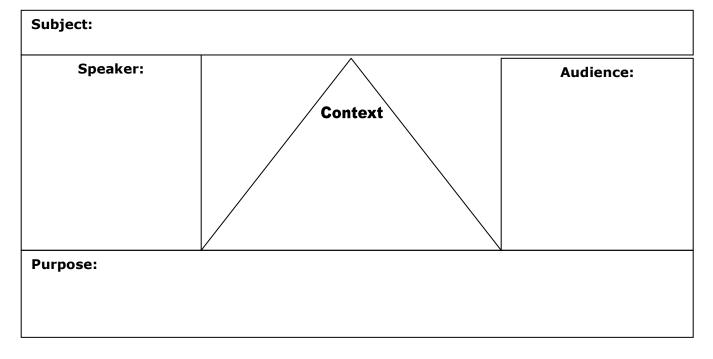
#### "Speech to the Virginia Convention"

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:
  - o Repetition o Rhetorical Questions
  - o Allusions o Parallel Structure



#### **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.

Period:

PARAPHRASE:

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Appeal to ethos	"No man thinks more highly than I do of the	
(credibility)	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

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Figurative	"illusions of hope"	
Language		
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"	

RHETORICAL	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and
STRATEGY		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	"I know of no way of judging of the future but by	
(Logic)	the past."	
Rhetorical	"Is it that insidious smile with which our petition	
Question	has been lately received?"	
Metaphor	"Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your	
	feet."	
Allusion to	"Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss."	
Christian New		
Testament		
Imagery	"Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of	
	our petition comports with those warlike	
	preparations which cover our waters and darken	
	our land."	
Rhetorical	Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love	
Questions	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

RHETORICAL	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and
STRATEGY		EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Imagery	"They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us	
(metaphor)	those chains which the British ministry have been	
Rhetorical	so long forging." "And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we	
Questions	try argument?"	
Questions	ity argument?	
Considering	"Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten	
Opposition/	years. Have we anything new to offer upon the	
Rhetorical ?	subject?"	
One-word	"Nothing."	
Sentence		
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."	
D 11 11		
Parallelism	"We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we	
	have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves	
Y	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	"we have been spurned, with contempt, from the	
Sentence	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 contendingif 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	"noble struggle"	
Diction	"pledged ourselves never to abandon until the	
	glorious object of our contest shall be obtained"	

RHETORICAL	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and
STRATEGY		EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Rhetorical	"But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the	
Questions	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	"Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of	
(Religion)	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	"Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base	
Logos (logic)	enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from	
	the contest."	
Imagery	Our chains are forged!	
Allusion to	Their clanking may be heard on the plains of	
Current Event	Boston! The war is inevitableand let it come! I	
	repeat it, sir, let it come."	
Repetition	"let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come"	

RHETORICAL STRATEGY	EXAMPLE OF DEVICE	EXPLANATION and EFFECT or PURPOSE OF STRATEGY
Exclamatory	"The war is actually begun!"	
Sentence		
Imagery	"The next gale that sweeps from the north will	
	bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms!"	
Rhetorical	"Why stand we here idle? What is it that	
Questions	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	I know not what course others may take; but as	
Ethos	for me, give me liberty or give me death!	
(credibility)		