

# Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

## Examining and Analyzing Rhetorical Appeals



Abraham Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address on March 4th, 1865. In the speech, Lincoln is confident of a Union victory, but far from celebratory—much of the rhetoric in the speech focuses on reuniting a divided country. He makes rhetorical choices that carefully consider all involved in the war: the Union, the Confederacy, and the slaves. He appeals to his audience's sense of justice by examining slavery and the Civil War through a religious lens. While making clear that slavery must be abolished, Lincoln's address does not condemn the South; his paramount aim is to emphasize unity in order to reconcile a divided nation and move forward in a common cause. To that end, Lincoln appeals to his audience's sense of shared humanity as Americans.

This worksheet gives students an opportunity to practice examining and analyzing rhetorical appeals. Effective appeals address all aspects of the rhetorical situation in any text or speech: the speaker, the audience, and the message. With this rhetorical situation in mind, Aristotle sought a means to most effectively convey ideas. He identified three general persuasive strategies, known as appeals, that address the three elements of the rhetorical situation: *ethos*, the appeal to the speaker's authority; *pathos*, the appeal to the audience's emotions; and *logos*, the appeal to the message's logic. In completing this worksheet, students will be able to examine and analyze Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals in order to evaluate works of rhetoric and the techniques they employ.

### Skills

- Analysis
- Drawing inferences from text
- Close reading
- Examining the impact of diction on audience

### Learning Objectives

By using this worksheet, students will:

- Examine appeals in a text
- Classify appeals in a text as *ethos*, *pathos*, or *logos*
- Distinguish the methods that make the appeal effective
- Evaluate how the appeal contributes to the overall message

## Examining and Analyzing Rhetorical Appeals

Examine the examples of appeals in Lincoln's second inaugural address that are recorded in the Appeal column below. Identify the type of appeal (*ethos*, *pathos*, or *logos*). Each passage may employ more than one. Distinguish what makes the appeal effective. Evaluate how the appeal either contributes to or effectively conveys the message. Record your answers to complete the chart.

Appeal	Type of appeal	What methods or techniques make the appeal effective?	How does the appeal contribute to and effectively convey the message?
1. "Fellow countrymen:"			
2. "The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured."			

## Examining and Analyzing Rhetorical Appeals

Appeal	Type of appeal	What methods or techniques make the appeal effective?	How does the appeal contribute to and effectively convey the message?
<p>6. “If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through his appointed time, he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him?”</p>			
<p>7. “Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away.”</p>			
<p>8. “With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.”</p>			

# Looking for More Resources?

From lesson plans and teaching guides to classroom activities focusing on specific literary and rhetorical devices, we're adding dozens of new, original teaching resources every month.

**Owl Eyes Teacher Members** unlock access to

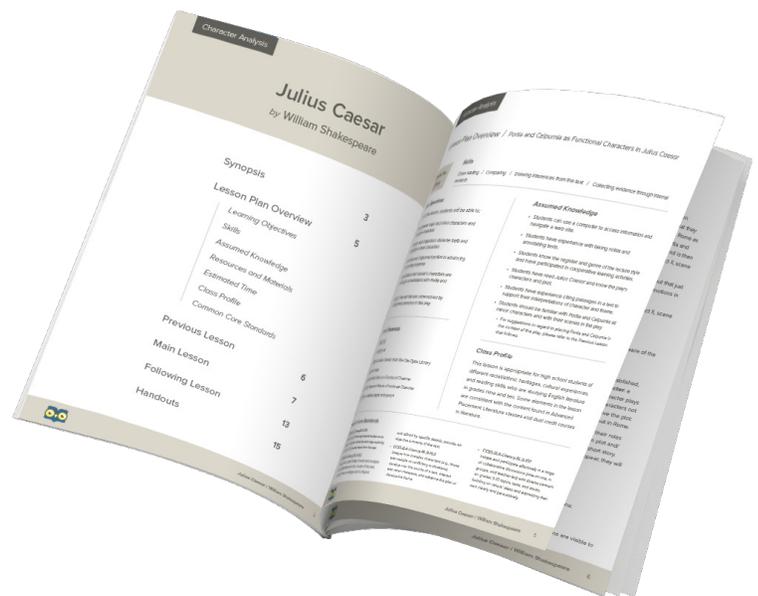
- 50+ lesson plans and teaching guides
- 100+ classroom activities and worksheets
- 200+ annotated texts and primary sources
- Priority Customer Support

**All for less than \$10/month. Cancel anytime.**



Our **comprehensive lesson plans** have been developed to meet the demanding needs of today's educational environment by promoting interaction, analytical skills, and student-centered activities.

All of our educational resources draw on Common Core standards, save teachers valuable planning time, and get students working directly with the texts.



## Visit Us to Get Started

Learn more and sign up today at Owl Eyes!

[owleyes.org/teachers](https://owleyes.org/teachers)

Prefer to email? Contact us at [info@owleyes.org](mailto:info@owleyes.org)