

2020

AP[®]

 CollegeBoard

AP[®] English Language and Composition

Sample Student Responses - Packet 1

Rhetorical Analysis Question - Johnson

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Rhetorical Analysis Free-Response Question (2020)
Sample Student Responses

Sample A

[1] To this very day, hate surrounds us. It was no different in the twentieth century, with segregation and rampant wars prevalent. Citizens of all nations were being left behind in rubble and despair, while others turned their back on the commitments they had made to the world around them. However, a beacon of hope was found in America, lit by the contributions of Eleanor Roosevelt. This is why Claudia Johnson, a fellow First Lady herself, uses her prowess as a political figure to emphasize the contributions of Eleanor Roosevelt through alluding to great quotes she felt embodied the spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt and by utilizing her perspective of having known Eleanor personally and admiring her to encourage women to act in similar ways of Eleanor Roosevelt.

[2] Claudia Johnson integrates quotes into her writing that illuminates the kind of person Eleanor Roosevelt was. Knowing that Eleanor Roosevelt was outspoken about issues that many others stayed silent about, she utilizes a quote from a member of the Jewish community under the Hitler regime to establish a contrast: “The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful, and the most tragic problem- is silence,” Johnson echoes, arguing that Roosevelt was far from silent on the issues she cared about, such as the treatment of African Americans and the underprivileged in society (Johnson). By alluding to this quote in her speech, Johnson is successful in eliciting a fire within her audience that encourages them to use their credibility as women in the political sphere to do good like Eleanor Roosevelt once did. Claudia Johnson wants her audience to be the next generation of Eleanor Roosevelt’s so that they can accomplish more in Eleanor Roosevelt’s memory than could have ever been dreamt of. By appealing to a passion in her audience and ultimately eliciting vibrant emotions, she encourages her audience to pursue tasks that make them feel as hard-working and as excited about the work they do as Eleanor Roosevelt felt about her work.

[3] This great speaker does not simply make assumptions about Eleanor Roosevelt, instead, she uses her background as someone who had been involved in the political sphere to elaborate on how unique Eleanor Roosevelt was. By warmly stating that Eleanor “extended her hand and hospitality to me”, she truly exemplifies why Eleanor Roosevelt was such a significant political figure during this time period (Johnson). She used her charm to extend her sphere of influence, enough to the point where she was later referred to as the “First Lady in the world” (Johnson). Eleanor Roosevelt did not shy away with all of this power, instead she harnessed it to create a better life for others. By Claudia Johnson showing how Eleanor Roosevelt did this not only in the public’s eye but also in her personal life, she demonstrates to her audience that the kind of person Eleanor was is rare and is a character trait that should be desired by fellow women in the political sphere: to not shy away from conflict but instead intervene and diffuse it, even if it’s not observed as a woman’s place. By eliciting a feeling of desire to achieve in her audience, Claudia Johnson continues to encourage women to pursue the same actions that Eleanor Roosevelt once took and to make legitimate change in the world that better the lives of others. Not only that, having established a line of credibility due to having known Eleanor Roosevelt, Johnson leaves her audience feeling like they have been exposed to the great truths about Eleanor

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Roosevelt and her success. This leaves her audience wanting to succeed in the ways that Roosevelt once did.

[4] Claudia Johnson was especially skilled in encouraging her audience of primarily women to escape the private sphere and use their knowledge and political positions to actually change the world, like Eleanor Roosevelt did. Johnson argues that Eleanor Roosevelt wouldn't want her accomplishments praised in a way that did not acknowledge how they had once been condemned. Speaking out against unjust practices is not easy, and it's especially not easy for women. This is why Claudia Johnson uses her credibility of having been involved in the political sphere for an extended amount of time as well as utilizing her ability to elicit passion in her audience to encourage them to actually make strides in the world that surrounds them. She knows that Eleanor Roosevelt's work is not done and she needs to encourage the next generation of outspoken and disobedient women. She is very effective in doing so by alluding to texts that criticize actions such as silence as well as using her perspective as a woman in power who has been exposed to the political sphere, encouraging women across the world to act.

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Sample B

[1] On April 9, 1964, United States First Lady Claudia Johnson gave a speech in honor of Eleanor Roosevelt. She spoke to those in attendance of the luncheon, specifically talking to the women within the crowd. She spoke about the many great things Roosevelt achieved for the women across America. Johnson goes at great lengths to emphasize just how important a role Roosevelt played in helping the people across the nation. Johnson gives this speech to light a fire inside her audience, hoping to motivate them into taking action and fighting for what they believe in. In order to achieve this, Johnson uses multiple rhetorical choices that better her argument and make it more convincing. In Claudia Johnson's speech at the first anniversary luncheon of the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation, Johnson uses ethos, exemplification, and rhetorical questions to motivate her audience to make a change in the world, proving that anybody is capable of making a difference.

[2] The first rhetorical appeal Johnson uses in her speech is ethos. She uses ethos in order to give credibility for her argument. Johnson first uses this, saying: "Nobody, said Marcus Aurelius, is either better or worse for being praised... She does not need our praise" (Johnson). This quote achieves multiple things. First, by citing a famous leader in world history, Johnson instantly gains credibility. This quote also redirects her audience's view on the ceremony, showing how Johnson's purpose is not to praise Roosevelt. Johnson was not giving a speech in honor of Roosevelt, but instead using Roosevelt as a model example of what everybody in the audience must do. Johnson later uses ethos again, saying: "A rabbi of the Jewish community in Berlin under the Hitler regime once said: 'The most important thing I learned is that bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problems... the most shameful, the most tragic problem – is silence'" (Johnson). In this quote, she cites somebody who led a group of Jewish people right under Hitler's nose. She shows how anybody is capable of making a difference in the world no matter the situation. If a rabbi can lead a Jewish community in Hitler occupied Berlin, anybody is capable of doing what they want in their lives. This rabbi was not super famous or well known, yet still was able to make a significant change and do what he believed was right.

[3] Johnson uses exemplification to show the audience just how many great things Roosevelt achieved during her lifetime. She first does this, saying: "I watched her at close range one day when she spent two hours helping the 75th Congressional Club give a benefit luncheon to buy a wheelchair for a crippled boy" (Johnson). In this quote, Johnson shows multiple things. First, she shows how Roosevelt was constantly motivated to achieve what she thought was right. By showing this, Johnson hopes to spark a change in the mindset of her audience, hoping that those in attendance will now be more likely to do the same. This quote also shows how Roosevelt was willing to work hard only to help one single person. This shows the audience that making a change can be as little as helping a single person. It does not matter how many people one is helping or how important one's cause may be on the world scale. All that matters is that everybody tries their hardest to achieve what they deem is right. Johnson uses exemplification once again later in the speech, saying: "I saw her last when she

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came to my home on February 12, 1962, the day the Commission on the Status of Women was organized under her chairmanship and her inspiration. She was 78" (Johnson). This quote once again highlights Roosevelt's constant determination to make a change. Johnson purposefully notes Roosevelt's age at this point in time to show the audience that truly anybody can make a change in the world. If a 78 year old woman can create a whole commission fighting for gender equality across a nation, the members of the audience can too make a change.

[4] The last rhetorical strategy that Johnson uses in her speech is rhetorical questions. Johnson uses these questions to direct her argument at the audience, making sure they truly know who she is speaking to. The first example of this is evident when she says, "Only one person as involved. Where else do you start, but with one person?" (Johnson). This question highlights how it does not matter how many people are being helped. This quote makes Johnson's goal more approachable for her audience members as many lack the resources to make a large change in the world. Many might feel overwhelmed if Johnson were to discuss people making huge changes that impacted entire nations. Instead, she purposefully discusses Roosevelt helping individual people so that members of her audience feel like they too can do what Roosevelt did. This quote shows the audience members that it is important to help anybody in any way that one can. Johnson uses another rhetorical question later in the speech, saying, "Are we ready to fight similar battles against new foes in our own day?" (Johnson). This quote makes the people in attendance of the luncheon know for sure who the intended audience is. Johnson makes sure to use first person pronouns so that the audience feels as if they have the same level of importance as she does. Johnson wants her audience members to believe that they are just as capable as she is to enact change and promote what they believe is right.

[5] Johnson uses ethos, exemplification, and rhetorical questions in her speech at the first anniversary luncheon of the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation to motivate her audience to make a change in the world, proving that anybody is capable of making a difference. She uses ethos in her argument to give it credibility and show other famous leaders who fought for what they believe in. She exemplifies multiple of Roosevelt's actions, big and small, showing that Roosevelt was constantly motivated to fight for what she believes in no matter the relative importance of the cause. Lastly, Johnson uses rhetorical questions to direct her argument at those listening to her, making sure they do not mistake who the target audience is. By using these rhetorical strategies, Johnson effectively creates a well built argument that will motivate her audience members to enact change in their lives. In the end, it does not matter how big or small one's cause may be. It does not matter how famous or unknown those fighting for their cause may be. All that matters is that when one sees something wrong in their lives, they work tirelessly to fix that problem and do not stop until they achieve their goal.

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Sample C

[1] Alongside the amazing president Franklin D. Roosevelt was an amazing First Lady: Eleanor Roosevelt. She was called his eyes and ears when he fell sick, she was a dedicated giver, and most of all, she lived out her every given word in her day to day life, accomplishing incredible feats just as she would say she would. She worked for everyone of all races and genders, and would become one of the greatest role models in the world; not only for women, but for everyone. Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson, First Lady at the time, had the honor of giving a speech at the first anniversary luncheon at her memorial. In this speech, she exemplified the many accomplishments of Eleanor Roosevelt, and described the kindness she always showed in order to pay a respectful and adequate tribute to the world’s First Lady.

[2] Given the time period of 1960’s America, women were still stuck in many gender roles, and it was uncommon to see women achieving high statuses and fighting for causes on their own. For this reason, Johnson’s choice to list her many successes and achievements paid great homage to Eleanor Roosevelt. She mentions her work in UN and her organization of The Commission on the Status of Women, but it is most apparent in paragraph 13 that Johnson wanted to emphasize the point that Mrs. Roosevelt went beyond any normal position someone could achieve, quoting Ambassador Stevenson that she was “First Lady of the World”. This is not a job that literally exists. However, this title was coined for her due to her immense work for human rights and poverty all around the world. Therefore, my alluding to this title given by Ambassador Steven, Claudia Johnson is proving to the crowd that her work did not even fit into one job: she worked for the whole world. Alongside knowing her many career successes, knowing that being a woman, on her own, worked on the international scale as an activist for human rights was more than enough to impress any spectator at the memorial, and earn the respect of any listener. Claudia Johnson’s exemplification of Roosevelt’s success legitimized her, and earned the audience’s credibility.

[3] In addition to listing her many successes and her title, Johnson included the point repeatedly that above all else, Eleanor Roosevelt had a good heart. In order to show that her morals and heart transcended any title she could have, Johnson explained what Eleanor taught with her principles, and called upon her listeners to act as she would. First, in paragraph 12, she elaborates upon her kindness by suggesting that Roosevelt’s focus was not on an overarching cause, but rather, helping individuals in any way she could, such as “an unemployed father, or a neglected [african american] child”. This elicited emotion from the audience, knowing that she cared for individuals who are so oppressed in their time, and warmed their heart to see someone so high up helping people so low. This pays great homage as well, by surviving her kindness by retelling. This concept is further reiterated by her call to action for the audience. In the conclusion, by urging the audience to “pluck prejudice from [their] lives, to remove fear and hate where it exists, and to create a world unafraid to work out its destiny in peace”, she is living on Mrs.

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Roosevelt. She is preaching her same principles, and citing them to Mrs. Roosevelt. In doing this, Johnson is giving the crowd a powerful message, and knowing that it comes from Eleanor Roosevelt, she urges the audience to have a new respect for her; successfully paying tribute to the First Lady of the World.

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Sample D

[1] Eleanor Roosevelt was an inspiration. She was seen as a ray of hope during the Great Depression, during which she was the First Lady. Her humanitarian work and dedication to helping the people of the United States is what made her a notable First Lady. Her love and commitment to her nation and to the people of the nation during an economic crisis is what has solidified her standing as one of the most well known First Ladies. As former First Lady Claudia Johnson recounts in her speech, honoring former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, she recounts all the amazing qualities of the first lady that she admires. In her speech given at the first anniversary luncheon of the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation, Claudia Johnson uses rhetorical questions, aphorisms, and her arrangement of sentences to effectively pay tribute to the former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

[2] Claudia Johnson's use rhetorical questions grabs the audience's attention to the outstanding qualities of Eleanor Roosevelt, which Johnson wants to emphasize. Johnson uses rhetorical questions to highlight the greatness of the deeds done by the former First Lady. Such as when she said "Only one person . . . but with one person?". This rhetorical question shows readers that Eleanor Roosevelt wasn't afraid to stand on her own. Johnson wants to inspire the crowd and by showing them Roosevelt's fearlessness, she hopes to make them understand that if one person stands up and fights for the right thing, that is all that is needed. This rhetorical questions helps establish Eleanor Roosevelt's character and that she wasn't afraid to stand by herself and help someone in need. Another rhetorical question is when she says "Are we ready to . . .". This question helps establish the lasting effect of Roosevelt's legacy. This question is meant to grip the audience and make them aware that with Roosevelt gone, it is up to them to continue to fight the way she did. BY doing this, Johnson effectively manages to include the audience in her praise of the Roosevelt and establishes a direct connection between them. The direct connection helps further her purpose of paying tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt because getting others involved in this movement to help the rest of the world, is what Roosevelt stood for, and it would be the best way to honor her memory.

[3] Johnson's use of aphorisms helps her pay tribute to the virtues of Eleanor Roosevelt and effectively honor her memory. One aphorism was when Johnson said ". . . sometimes silence is the greatest sin." This saying is a common saying and by relating it to Roosevelt, it shows her qualities that attracted people to her. Her fearlessness in the face of adversity and standing up for those who can't shows what kind of person she is. This aphorism effectively honors her and the lasting impact she had on Johnson. The aphorisms highlights one of the many lessons Johnson learned from Roosevelt which helps to overall drive her point in honoring the deceased first lady. Another aphorism is in

[4] Johnson's arrangement of sentences is another way in which she effectively pays tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt. Johnson's syntax in her paragraphs is arranged in a format of stating a general truth

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and bringing it back to Roosevelt. For example, when Johnson says, "All of us are familiar . . . Mrs. Roosevelt never stood with. . ." , she shows how different Eleanor was from the masses. The arrangement of her sentences so as to show Eleanor did not fit into the societal generalizations, shows off the qualities of Eleanor that made her an amazing First lady and an amazing ambassador afterwards. Another example is when she says "President Wilson used to say . . . Mrs. Roosevelt steadily . . .". This arrangement of sentences in this paragraph is to show how Roosevelt blossomed under pressure. She was put in the public eye and she blossomed and became a ray of hope for the entire nation during dark times. The author arranges her statements so that they have the maximum impact on her audience. Starting with general statements or quotes as she does in these two examples, allows her to set up the context and show how Roosevelt either embodies the statement or defies it. Both of which help establish Roosevelt's character.

[5] Overall, Johnson was very effective in paying tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt. Her use of rhetorical questions, aphorisms, and syntax helps the audience see the amazing qualities that Roosevelt embodied. She praises Roosevelt appropriately and thus effectively pays tribute to the former first lady.

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Sample E

[1] On April 9, 1964, Claudia Jhonson who was currently the First Lady of the United States gave a phenomenal speech at the first anniversary luncheon of Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation. Throughout her speech she glorifies Eleanor Roosevelt's actions and upholds her beliefs describing the enormous impact she had on millions of peoples lives. Claudia uses rhetorical strategies alliteration, hypophora, and amplification in her speech to leave a lasting and meaningful impression on everyone who heard it.

[2] Firstly, Claudia uses the rhetorical strategy alliteration throughout her speech such as when she states, "Her conscience was her councillor." She says this while describing how Eleanor Roosevelt is not afraid to stand up for what she believes in and will always try to help other people no matter the odds. With Claudias use of alliteration it affects the audience by both causing that phrase to resonate in their heads making her speech more meaningful and it furthermore, creates and gives the audience an idea of how unwavering her conscience makes her speech more memorable.

[3] Secondly, Claudia implements the use of the rhetorical strategy hypophora within her speech. This is evident when she states, "Where else do you start, but with one person?" Her use of hypophora causes the audience to look at themselves and to question how they view what she is saying. This pushes the audience to reflect on their own beliefs adding a level of depth to her speech as well as to get the audience more involved in what she is saying. This in addition creates an atmosphere of hope and remembrance as she goes on to answer the question causing the audience to feel they can make the world a better place themselves as well.

[4] Lastly, Claudia uses the rhetorical strategy amplification. Her use of amplification is evident in her statements such as "She saw dictators hurling the world into war, and so she worked unflinchingly for peace" and "The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful, and the most tragic problem- is silence." Her use of amplification during her speech causes the audience to feel the urgency in what she is saying and how important it is to the world. Furthermore, it causes the audience to want to make a change just as Eleanor Roosevelt givin how serious Claudia portrays them to be during her speech.

[5] Claudia's speech will continue to be looked back on for years to come due to her phenomenal use of rhetorical strategies such as alliteration, hypophora, and amplification. She demonstrates how if you can effectively use rhetorical strategies in your own speeches and papers, and how if you implement the most relevant ones to your topic you can leave a lasting positive impression on your audience. Furthermore, she set an example on how with the use of these devices you can help people see from your perspective and get people to make a change in their lives as well.

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Sample F

[1] Eleanor Roosevelt was an American advocate. She advocated for a role for women in the workspaces. Claudia Johnson portrays Eleanor Roosevelt tribute by portraying Roosevelt in an uplifting tone/matter and shows that she had the right reasons for her achievements.

[2] Many people heard or may have known Eleanor Roosevelt, this causes many different perspectives to be formed, good or bad. In paragraph 2, Johnson talks about how she came to love Roosevelt and others did also. By doing this she put a picture in the audience's head that Roosevelt was a well liked person but it doesn't portray what people disliked about her. When only talking about the achievements of Roosevelt it only paints a picture for someone to see the good in her. This allows the audience to be more involved in the speech given because the uplifting tone allows them to have their own memories and thoughts of Roosevelt.

[3] Praise can often lead to good things or be followed by bad things. In paragraph 4, Johnson says "she does not need our praise", by stating this it shows the audience that Eleanor Roosevelt didn't work hard just for the praise but for the outcome that followed. It was also stated in paragraph 5 that Roosevelt never stood with "timid company". Timid company is seen as lacking courage. Johnson points these out in her speech to show that even though she received praise for what she did, it wasn't why she did it.

[4] Overall, Claudia Johnson portrayed Roosevelt in a good way that would appeal to her audience. By setting a calm, happy tone her audience would be more into her speech. Claudia Johnson, who was the first lady at the time, wrote her speech in a positive manner. But why didn't she show negative factors of Roosevelt?

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Sample G

[1] In the speech by Claudia Johnson at the first anniversary luncheon of the Eleanor Roosevelt foundation, Johnson uses paradox when she says “She thought of the suffering individual, not the theoretical principle.”

[2] Johnson uses a paradox when she says “She thought of the suffering individual, not the theoretical principle.” because she is trying to explain how Roosevelt was doing things not because it was the right thing to do but because someone needed help. Johnson goes on to give example such as “She saw an unemployed father so she helped him” and “She saw a neglected negro child, so she educated him”. These examples were used to show how if there was someone in need of help she would try to help.