

Proclamation Analysis Answer Key

Sample Responses

1. **Emotion:** Pride and unity. Wilson appeals to citizens' shared love for their country.
2. **Device:** Personification - The flag "speaks" to Americans; this gives it a voice that inspires emotional connection.
3. It means the flag's meaning depends on how citizens act-it represents the nation's values through its people.
4. **Tone:** Reverent or noble - created by phrases like "majestic silence" and "honor and serve."
5. Wilson reminds readers that the flag stands for the collective choices and deeds of the people.
6. In 1916, as World War I loomed, his words encouraged national unity and moral strength.
7. Example rewrite: *The flag represents who we are as a nation because our actions give it meaning.*

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Analyzing **rhetorical devices**, **tone**, and **historical context** in persuasive writing.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For students newer to rhetoric, review common persuasive techniques (e.g., repetition, parallelism, personification).
 - Advanced students can identify multiple devices and discuss their cumulative effect.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Have students deliver short readings of the passage aloud to analyze tone and pacing.
 - Invite students to find a modern speech that uses similar patriotic or motivational language.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Compare Wilson's tone with another leader's patriotic speech (e.g., Kennedy's Inaugural Address).
 - Discuss how persuasive language shapes civic identity and national unity.