



Climate Rhetoric

Directions: Read the excerpt from the speech carefully. Pay attention to how the speaker builds credibility, uses logical reasoning, and appeals to emotions. Answer the questions that follow to analyze the author's purpose and rhetorical strategies.

Excerpt from a Persuasive Speech on Climate Change

"My fellow citizens, the evidence is undeniable. Scientists across the globe have measured the rising temperatures, shrinking glaciers, and devastating wildfires that scar our lands. This is not speculation—it is fact, supported by decades of careful research.

We cannot ignore the suffering of families displaced by floods or the farmers whose crops have withered under relentless drought. Their pain reminds us that this crisis is not abstract; it is deeply human.

But we are not powerless. We are innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders. By choosing renewable energy, supporting sustainable industries, and demanding action from our representatives, we can protect both our planet and our children's future. Let history remember us not for our hesitation, but for our courage to act when it mattered most."

Rhetorical Lens Check

1. **Author's Purpose** - In one or two sentences, explain the main purpose of this speech. What does the speaker want the audience to do or believe?
2. **Ethos** - Identify one line that builds the speaker's credibility or authority. Explain how it establishes trust.
3. **Logos** - Find one example of logical reasoning or factual evidence in the passage. Explain why it strengthens the argument.
4. **Pathos** - Identify a line that appeals to the audience's emotions. What emotion is the speaker trying to stir, and why?
5. **Effectiveness** - In 3-4 sentences, evaluate whether the rhetorical appeals work together effectively. Do you think the speech would persuade its intended audience? Why or why not?