

Climate Rhetoric Answer Key

1. Author's Purpose

- Model Answer: The speaker's purpose is to persuade the audience that climate change is urgent and requires immediate action. The speech calls on listeners to support sustainable solutions and advocate for policy change.
- *Teacher Note:* Look for answers that identify both the urgency of the issue and the call to action.

2. Ethos

- Model Answer: "Scientists across the globe have measured the rising temperatures..." establishes ethos because it references expert authority. This makes the audience trust the speaker's claims.
- *Teacher Note:* Students should connect credibility to scientific research or authoritative voices.

3. Logos

- Model Answer: "Shrinking glaciers, and devastating wildfires that scar our lands... supported by decades of careful research" is an example of logos because it provides measurable, factual evidence.
- *Teacher Note:* Accept other factual references as long as reasoning is explained.

4. Pathos

- Model Answer: "We cannot ignore the suffering of families displaced by floods..." appeals to emotions of empathy and compassion. It highlights the human cost of climate change to move the audience emotionally.
- *Teacher Note:* Encourage students to tie emotion directly to persuasion (compassion, fear, urgency).

5. Effectiveness

- Model Answer: The speech effectively blends ethos, logos, and pathos. It builds credibility through scientific authority, uses facts to establish logical reasoning, and stirs emotions by showing human suffering and hope for the future. Together, these appeals make the speech persuasive for an audience concerned about climate change.
- *Teacher Note:* Strong responses will recognize balance among the appeals and connect them to audience impact.