

Name _____



Words Of Resolve

Directions: Read the excerpt below from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "**Day of Infamy**" speech delivered to Congress on December 8, 1941. Then, answer the questions that follow to analyze his use of persuasive techniques such as repetition, tone, and emotional appeal.

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."

Analysis Questions:

1. What emotions does Roosevelt's word choice ("infamy," "deliberately," "dastardly") create in the listener?
2. Identify one example of **repetition** in the passage. Why is it effective?
3. How does Roosevelt's **tone** shift from the beginning to the end of the excerpt?
4. What persuasive technique is used when Roosevelt says, "No matter how long it may take us..."?
5. How might this speech have inspired Americans to unite after the attack?
6. Rewrite one line from the speech in your own words while keeping its emotional power.
7. In one or two sentences, explain how this speech shows the power of words in times of crisis.