




“I Have a Dream” Speech Analyses Chart: Answer Key

Here are examples of you how might have filled out your chart. At least one example of ethos, logos, and pathos has been provided. Your own answers might not be exactly the same, but they should be match the quality and depth of the answers on this chart.

Author’s Purpose Statement	WHAT is the author saying? (EVIDENCE.) 	HOW is the author saying it? (literary devices) 	WHY is the author saying it in this manner? (ethos, logos, pathos EXPLANATIONS) 
Even today, many people still suffer racial prejudice	“But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled...One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty...One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished...and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition” (543).	The author uses anaphora, a repetition of phrases (“One hundred years later”) at the beginning of each clause to emphasize the immense gap in time between the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation when slaves were declared free and ironically argues that even today, one hundred years later, that freedom does not really exist for African-American people.	The author is using anaphora to create the appeal of pathos. He gives the audience a sense of embarrassment and awe that people are STILL not free or equal in America.
The fight for freedom should be nonviolent	“[W]e must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not...[drink] from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not...degenerate into physical violence...[W]e must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force” (544-545)	King urges his listeners to fight for freedom using nonviolent means by using diction ripe with moral underpinnings (“majestic heights,” “soul force,” “plane of dignity and discipline.”)	The author is carefully choosing diction that helps build ethos. His credibility as a nonviolent activist and moral, upstanding leader is showcased through the positive connotation of the words associated with nonviolence and moral integrity.
America has failed to live up to the Declaration of Independence by refusing to give all people their unalienable rights.	“In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check.... It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note...Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked ‘insufficient funds’” (543).	King urges an analogy that compares a check to the freedoms promised to ALL Americans—regardless of race, religion, or creed—through the Declaration of Independence. He says that African-Americans have been given the check, but America has “defaulted on this promissory note” and given them nothing but insufficient funds, meaning that they have been unfairly promised rights but not given them.	The author is using this analogy to strengthen the logos of his speech. He appeals to the audience’s sense of logic by using reasoning and comparison regarding freedoms and the “bad check” African-Americans have received from a country founded on “unalienable Rights” for all.
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