

george bush 9/11 speech rhetorical analysis

george bush 9/11 speech rhetorical analysis examines one of the most significant presidential addresses in American history. Delivered on the evening of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush's speech offered reassurance, unity, and resolve to a nation in shock. This article provides a comprehensive rhetorical analysis of Bush's 9/11 speech, exploring the context, audience, purpose, and key rhetorical strategies used. By analyzing the speech's structure, language, tone, and persuasive appeals, readers will gain insight into how it shaped public sentiment and influenced the national response. The article also discusses the enduring significance of Bush's words in American collective memory. If you are seeking an in-depth, keyword-rich analysis of George Bush's 9/11 speech, this resource offers detailed explanations, examples, and takeaways. Continue reading to discover how rhetorical techniques elevated this speech into a defining moment in modern American history.

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Context and Background of George Bush's 9/11 Speech

Understanding the context of George Bush's 9/11 speech is essential for a thorough rhetorical analysis. On September 11, 2001, the United States experienced an unprecedented series of terrorist attacks, resulting in widespread fear, confusion, and mourning. In the hours following the attacks, the nation looked to its leaders for guidance and reassurance. President George W. Bush addressed the country from the Oval Office at 8:30 PM EST, just hours after the tragic events unfolded.

The speech was crafted under intense pressure, as the President needed to demonstrate leadership, empathy, and resolve. The address was not only intended for American citizens but also for a global audience, including allies and adversaries. The immediate goals were to comfort those affected, affirm national unity, and signal the United States' response. Recognizing the magnitude of the moment, Bush's speechwriters employed carefully chosen language and rhetoric to achieve these objectives.

Audience and Purpose of the Address

Primary Audience: American Public

The primary audience for George Bush's 9/11 speech was the American people. Millions tuned in, seeking comfort and direction during a time of chaos. Bush's rhetoric aimed to address the collective grief and uncertainty, providing reassurance and a sense of security. He acknowledged the pain felt by families, first responders, and communities across the nation, ensuring that no group felt overlooked.

Secondary Audience: International Community

While the address primarily targeted Americans, it was also directed at an international audience. The world was watching how the United States would respond. Bush took the opportunity to convey resolve to allies and issue a clear warning to those responsible for the attacks. By speaking to a broad audience, the speech reinforced global solidarity against terrorism and positioned the United States as a determined leader on the world stage.

Purpose of the Speech

The overarching purpose of Bush's 9/11 speech was threefold:

- To reassure and unite the nation in the face of tragedy
- To honor the victims, first responders, and Americans affected by the attacks
- To communicate the United States' intentions regarding justice and future action

By clearly articulating these goals, Bush's speech became a cornerstone of presidential rhetoric in times of crisis.

Rhetorical Strategies in Bush's 9/11 Speech

Ethos: Establishing Credibility and Authority

Bush utilized ethos by presenting himself as a calm, compassionate, and resolute leader. He spoke as both President and fellow American, bridging the gap between government and citizens. His measured tone and direct language established trust and reassured listeners that the situation was under control.

Pathos: Appealing to Emotions

Pathos is a dominant rhetorical appeal throughout the speech. Bush acknowledged the pain and loss experienced by countless families, using empathetic language to validate their grief. He referenced “parents, children, and friends” who were “suddenly taken from us,” inviting the audience to share in a collective sense of mourning. The President also invoked patriotism, calling Americans to “stand together to win the war against terrorism.”

Logos: Logical Structure and Reasoned Arguments

Bush’s speech featured clear, logical progression. He outlined the facts of the day’s events, identified the attacks as acts of terrorism, and explained the government’s immediate response. By providing a rational account of the situation and outlining steps for the future, Bush appealed to the public’s need for clarity and direction.

Repetition and Parallelism

Repetition and parallel structure are used to emphasize key messages. For example, Bush stated, “America was targeted for attack because we’re the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world.” This reinforced national identity and resilience. The use of parallel phrases highlighted the unity and shared values of Americans.

Symbolism and Allusions

Bush employed symbolism, referencing American ideals such as freedom, justice, and resolve. Allusions to national symbols like the flag and mentions of prayer provided comfort and invoked a sense of unity. These rhetorical devices connected the immediate tragedy to broader themes of American history and identity.

Use of Language, Tone, and Structure

Language Choices

The language in Bush’s 9/11 speech was carefully chosen for clarity and impact. The President avoided overly complex vocabulary, opting for words that were direct and universally understood. He used inclusive language such as “we,” “our nation,” and “our fellow citizens,” reinforcing collective identity and purpose.

Tone and Mood

The tone was solemn yet reassuring. Bush balanced expressions of grief with statements of hope and determination. He avoided panic or anger, instead projecting strength and stability. The mood shifted from mourning to resolve, reflecting the nation's desire for both comfort and a path forward.

Speech Structure

Bush's address followed a logical structure:

- Introduction: Acknowledgment of the attacks and national shock
- Empathy: Expressions of sorrow for victims and families
- Reassurance: Outlining government actions and support
- Unity: Calling Americans to stand together
- Resolution: Promising justice and future action

This structured approach ensured that each rhetorical goal was addressed methodically, guiding listeners through a range of emotions toward a sense of purpose.

Impact and Legacy of the Speech

Immediate Public Reaction

The immediate impact of George Bush's 9/11 speech was profound. Americans reported feeling comforted and united by the President's words. The speech contributed to a surge in national solidarity, with citizens expressing renewed patriotism and support for first responders and victims.

Long-Term Significance

Over time, Bush's 9/11 address has become a reference point for crisis communication. The speech is studied in rhetorical analysis for its effective use of ethos, pathos, and logos, as well as its role in shaping public opinion and policy. The language and themes have been echoed in subsequent addresses by American leaders facing national tragedies.

Influence on Political Discourse

The speech also influenced political discourse in the years following 9/11. It set the tone for the War on Terror and established expectations for presidential rhetoric during national crises. The address is frequently cited as a model for balancing empathy with resolve in political communication.

Key Takeaways from the Rhetorical Analysis

A comprehensive George Bush 9/11 speech rhetorical analysis reveals several key insights:

1. Effective crisis leadership is rooted in clear, empathetic communication.
2. Rhetorical devices such as ethos, pathos, logos, repetition, and symbolism enhance the persuasive power of a speech.
3. Addressing both national and international audiences broadens the impact of presidential rhetoric.
4. The structure and tone of a speech can guide public emotion from grief to unity and resolve.
5. Language that affirms shared values and collective identity fosters national solidarity.

These takeaways demonstrate why Bush's 9/11 address remains a cornerstone example in rhetorical studies and presidential communication.

Trending Questions and Answers about George Bush 9/11 Speech Rhetorical Analysis

Q: What rhetorical devices did George Bush use in his 9/11 speech?

A: Bush used ethos, pathos, and logos, as well as repetition, parallelism, symbolism, and allusions to American values and unity.

Q: Why is Bush's 9/11 speech considered effective in crisis communication?

A: The speech effectively reassured the public, unified the nation, honored victims, and outlined a clear response, using empathetic and strong language to guide the country through trauma.

Q: How did Bush address both national and international

audiences?

A: Bush spoke directly to Americans by offering comfort and unity, while also addressing the world to demonstrate American resolve and warn those responsible for the attacks.

Q: What was the main purpose of the 9/11 speech?

A: The main purpose was to reassure Americans, honor the victims, and communicate the United States' commitment to justice and a strong response.

Q: How did Bush use pathos in his speech?

A: Bush appealed to emotions by acknowledging national grief, referencing families and victims, and invoking patriotic sentiments.

Q: What impact did the 9/11 speech have on the American public?

A: The speech provided comfort, fostered national unity, and set the tone for collective action and resilience in the aftermath of the attacks.

Q: How did the structure of the speech contribute to its effectiveness?

A: The logical structure guided listeners from shock and sorrow to unity and determination, making the message clear and impactful.

Q: Why is the speech still studied in rhetorical analysis today?

A: Bush's 9/11 address exemplifies effective rhetorical strategies in crisis communication and continues to influence political discourse and public speaking.

Q: What language choices did Bush make to unify the nation?

A: He used inclusive terms like "we," "our nation," and referenced shared values to foster a collective American identity.

Q: What legacy did Bush's 9/11 speech leave in American history?

A: The speech is remembered as a defining moment of leadership and unity, setting a standard for presidential addresses during national crises.

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George Bush 9/11 Speech Rhetorical Analysis: A Deep Dive into Presidential Persuasion

The horrific events of September 11th, 2001, forever etched themselves into the global consciousness. Amidst the chaos and devastation, then-President George W. Bush addressed the nation, delivering a speech that transcended mere announcement; it became a pivotal moment in American history and a masterclass in rhetorical strategy. This rhetorical analysis delves into President Bush's address, exploring the techniques he employed to galvanize the nation, unify a grieving populace, and ultimately, justify a course of action that would reshape the world. We will dissect his word choices, his appeals to emotion, and the overall impact of his communication, revealing how a carefully crafted speech can shape national sentiment and international policy.

H2: Establishing a Tone of Unity and Resolve

Bush's 9/11 address masterfully established a tone of resolute unity, crucial in the face of unprecedented national trauma. He began by acknowledging the incomprehensible nature of the attacks, using phrases like "a day that will live in infamy" to immediately establish the gravity of the situation. This was not a speech of political maneuvering; it was a message of shared grief and collective resolve. He consistently used the pronoun "we," forging a sense of national identity and shared experience that transcended individual differences. This inclusive language served to unite a diverse nation facing a common enemy.

H2: The Power of Pathos: Appealing to Emotion

The most impactful aspect of Bush's address was his masterful use of pathos – the appeal to emotion. He expertly tapped into the raw emotions of fear, grief, and anger felt by the American people. His voice, often choked with emotion, mirrored the nation's own struggle to process the unimaginable loss. Phrases like "terrible tragedy" and "our nation's grief" resonated deeply with the audience, validating their pain and acknowledging the shared trauma. This emotional connection was crucial in establishing his credibility and fostering trust.

H3: Utilizing Imagery to Convey Severity

Bush's skillful use of vivid imagery further amplified the emotional impact. His descriptions of the attacks, while brief, were powerful and evocative. By painting a picture of the devastation, he reinforced the severity of the situation and amplified the call to action. This imagery fueled the nation's collective outrage and solidified its determination to respond.

H2: Logos and the Justification of War

While pathos was dominant, Bush also employed logos—the appeal to logic and reason—to justify the subsequent military response. He framed the attacks not as isolated incidents but as acts of war against the United States. He meticulously laid out the facts of the attacks and presented a clear and concise picture of the enemy, laying the groundwork for the "War on Terror." This strategic use of logic, although arguably debatable in hindsight, provided a framework for the future actions of his administration.

H3: The Rhetorical Power of "Our Enemies"

The use of "our enemies" was a strategically significant choice. It wasn't simply about identifying perpetrators; it was about solidifying the "us versus them" dichotomy. This binary opposition was essential for rallying the nation behind a unified response to the attacks and creating a sense of collective purpose against an external threat.

H2: Analyzing the Use of Ethos: Establishing Credibility

Bush's address also leveraged ethos—his own credibility and authority—effectively. His role as President, coupled with his visible emotional response, established his authority and empathy. His calm demeanor in the face of national crisis projected a sense of stability and leadership, which was essential in assuring the American public during a time of profound uncertainty.

H2: Long-Term Impact and Critical Assessment

The long-term impact of Bush's 9/11 speech is undeniable. It not only galvanized the American people but also shaped the foreign policy of the United States for years to come. However, a critical analysis reveals complexities. While the speech effectively united the nation in the immediate aftermath, the justifications presented for the War on Terror have been extensively debated and

critiqued. The speech serves as a powerful case study in the persuasive power of rhetoric, highlighting both its ability to unite and its potential to shape national narratives, both for better and for worse.

Conclusion

George W. Bush's 9/11 address stands as a remarkable example of presidential rhetoric. Its effectiveness stemmed from a skillful blend of pathos, logos, and ethos, carefully crafted to address a nation in mourning and to justify a decisive response to a global crisis. While the speech's impact remains a subject of ongoing debate, its enduring power as a historical artifact and a lesson in persuasive communication remains undeniable. It serves as a potent reminder of the immense power of words in shaping public opinion and influencing the course of history.

FAQs

1. What was the primary purpose of Bush's 9/11 speech? The primary purpose was to console the nation, unite the American people in grief, and lay the groundwork for a decisive response to the terrorist attacks.
2. How did Bush use emotional appeals (pathos) in his speech? He used emotionally charged language, a visibly affected tone of voice, and evocative descriptions of the attacks to connect with the audience on an emotional level.
3. Did Bush's speech solely rely on emotional appeals? No, while pathos was dominant, he also used logos by presenting a rationale for future actions and ethos by leveraging his presidential authority and emotional response.
4. What are some of the criticisms leveled against Bush's speech and its aftermath? Critics argue that the speech's justification for the War on Terror was overly simplistic and ultimately led to costly and protracted military engagements. The speech's impact on civil liberties and national security policies has also been subject to scrutiny.
5. How does this speech compare to other significant presidential addresses? Bush's 9/11 address is often compared to Franklin D. Roosevelt's Pearl Harbor address, both in their immediate impact and long-term historical significance. Both speeches skillfully used rhetoric to unify the nation in the face of a national crisis, but the context and resulting actions differ significantly.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *Communication and Conflict in Multiple Settings* Peter Bray, Marta Rzepecka, 2018-06-12 Communication decisively impacts upon all our lives. This inherent need to connect may either be soothing or painful, a source of intimate understanding or violent discord. Consequently, how it is brokered is challenging and often crucial in situations where those involved have quite different ways of being in and seeing the world. Good

communication is equated with skills that intentionally facilitate change, the realisation of desirable outcomes and the improvement of human situations. Withdrawal of communication, or its intentional manipulation, provokes misunderstanding, mistrust, and precipitates the decline into disorder. This international collection of work specifically interrogates conflict as an essential outworking of communication, and suggests that understanding of communication's potency in contexts of conflict can directly influence reciprocally positive outcomes.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Bush's War Jim A. Kuypers, 2006-10-10
Immediately after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Americans looked to President Bush for words of leadership. In his most formal reply of the day, he said, 'Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices; secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.' The stark tone of Bush's speech suggested the promise of more words to come from the president, and it is these words that Bush's War addresses. While many books have offered a take on the attacks of 9/11 and their impact upon American society, one area has been comparatively ignored: presidential justifications for war in the age of terrorism. Specifically, what did President Bush say to justify American military actions in the post-9/11 world? And how did the public hear what he said, especially as it was filtered through the news media? The eloquent and thoughtful Bush's War shows how public perception of what the president says is shaped by media bias. Jim A. Kuypers compares Bush's statements with press coverage, arguing that the nature of American public knowledge concerning our role in the world has been changed—not by 9/11, but by the subsequent argumentative back-and-forth between Bush and the press.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Writing the War on Terrorism Richard Jackson, 2005-07-22 This book examines the language of the war on terrorism and is essential reading for anyone wanting to understand how the Bush administration's approach to counter-terrorism became the dominant policy paradigm in American politics today.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Presidential Rhetoric on Terrorism under Bush, Obama and Trump Gabriel Rubin, 2020-03-21 Through the analysis of eighteen years of presidential data, this book shows how Presidents Bush, Obama, and Trump have conducted and framed the war on terror since its inception in 2001. Examining all presidential speeches about terrorism from George W. Bush's two terms as President, Barack Obama's two terms as President, and Donald Trump's first year as President, this book is the first to compare the three post-9/11 presidents in how they have dealt with the terror threat. *Presidential Rhetoric on Terrorism under Bush, Obama, and Trump* argues that when policies need to be "sold" to the public and Congress, presidents make their pertinent issues seem urgent through frequent speech-making and threat inflation. It further illustrates how after policies are sold, a new President's reticence may signify quiet acceptance of the old regime's approach. After examining the conduct of the war on terror to date, it concludes by posing policy suggestions for the future.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: W Stands for Women Michael L. Ferguson, Lori Jo Marso, 2007-08-29 DIVEssays that examine the Bush administration's deployment of feminist rhetoric and the effects of the administration's policies on women, feminism, and gender roles in the U.S./div

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Our Nig Harriet E. Wilson, 2023-07-07
Considered the first novel by a female African-American, *Our Nig* was ignored upon first publication in 1859 and lost for more than 100 years. The novel achieved national attention when it was rediscovered and reprinted in 1983. *Our Nig* tells the story of Frado growing up as an indentured servant in the antebellum northern United States. Like *Our Nig* number of novels and other works of fiction of the period were in some part based on real-life events, including Fanny Fern's *Ruth Hall*; Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*; or even Hannah Webster Foster's *The Coquette*.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *The Discourse of the New World Order* Annita Lazar, Michelle Lazar, 2010 Much has been written about the events of 9/11 and its aftermath as

constituting a rupture in US and world history. This book, however, proposes that while the attacks on US homeland were unprecedented, the ensuing discourse of President G.W. Bush and his 'war on terror' campaign cannot be said to constitute a radical departure. The book aims to show that President Bush's statements and actions since 9/11 belong within a broader unfolding discourse of the 'New World Order', which has been underway since the end of the Cold War. To make their case, Lazar and Lazar adapt and develop Foucault's notion of 'discourse formation' for a critical discourse analysis of almost two decades of post-Cold War presidential texts and talk, including speeches, press conferences, radio addresses, policy documents, and interviews. This book is the first to be jointly written by a linguist and a political scientist, allowing for the marriage of theoretical and analytical insights from international relations, international security studies, strategic studies, political discourse analysis and critical discourse studies.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *The Rhetorical Presidency* Jeffrey K. Tulis, 2017-11-07 Modern presidents regularly appeal over the heads of Congress to the people at large to generate support for public policies. The Rhetorical Presidency makes the case that this development, born at the outset of the twentieth century, is the product of conscious political choices that fundamentally transformed the presidency and the meaning of American governance. Now with a new foreword by Russell Muirhead and a new afterword by the author, this landmark work probes political pathologies and analyzes the dilemmas of presidential statecraft. Extending a tradition of American political writing that begins with *The Federalist* and continues with Woodrow Wilson's Congressional Government, *The Rhetorical Presidency* remains a pivotal work in its field.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11* Robert Brent Toplin, 2006 Examines the development of Michael Moore's ideas and the evolution of his filmmaking, then dissects *Fahrenheit 9/11*, and explores the many claims and disagreements about the movie's truthfulness. This study shows that Michael Moore's film did more than shake up a nation.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Analysis: George W. Bush - Address to a Terrified Nation Tharusan Thevathasan, 2011-11-14 Presentation / Essay (Pre-University) from the year 2011 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Pedagogy, Literature Studies, , language: English, abstract: In his memorable crisis speech George Bush aspires to encourage the American citizens after the attacks on September 11, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, he aims to convince the audience of the official American anti-terror policy in order to defend freedom and justice of democratically elected governments - not only America - which were under the attack of a terrorist organization demanding radical targets. To get a better insight into Bush's aims it is inevitable to analyse his deployed stylistic and rhetoric devices.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *Inaugural Presidential Address* Obama Barack, 2016-06-23 Unlike some other reproductions of classic texts (1) We have not used OCR(Optical Character Recognition), as this leads to bad quality books with introduced typos. (2) In books where there are images such as portraits, maps, sketches etc We have endeavoured to keep the quality of these images, so they represent accurately the original artefact. Although occasionally there may be certain imperfections with these old texts, we feel they deserve to be made available for future generations to enjoy.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *The Rhetoric of Religion* Kenneth Burke, 1970-04 But the point of Burke's work, and the significance of his achievement, is not that he points out that religion and language affect each other, for this has been said before, but that he proceeds to demonstrate how this is so by reference to a specific symbolic context. After a discussion 'On Words and The Word,' he analyses verbal action in St. Augustine's Confessions. He then discusses the first three chapters of Genesis, and ends with a brilliant and profound 'Prologue in Heaven,' an imaginary dialogue between the Lord and Satan in which he proposes that we begin our study of human motives with complex theories of transcendence,' rather than with terminologies developed in the use of simplified laboratory equipment. . . . Burke now feels, after some forty years of search, that he has created a model of the symbolic act which breaks through the rigidities of the

'sacred-secular' dichotomy, and at the same time shows us how we get from secular and sacred realms of action over the bridge of language. . . . Religious systems are systems of action based on communication in society. They are great social dramas which are played out on earth before an ultimate audience, God. But where theology confronts the developed cosmological drama in the 'grand style,' that is, as a fully developed cosmological drama for its religious content, the 'logologer' can be further studied not directly as knowledge but as anecdotes that help reveal for us the quandaries of human governance. --Hugh Dalziel Duncan from *Critical Responses to Kenneth Burke*, 1924 - 1966, edited by William H. Rueckert (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1969).

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Farnsworth's Classical English Rhetoric Ward Farnsworth, 2011 Ward Farnsworth details the timeless principles of rhetoric that have held good from Ancient Greece to the present day, drawing on examples in the English language of consummate masters of prose, such as Lincoln, Churchill, Dickens, Melville, Burke & Pain.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: The George W. Bush Presidency Robert E. Denton, 2012-07-21 To date, there are only a couple dozen or so books specifically about the Presidency of George W. Bush. Political operatives, members of the media, and former administration officials have written most of the volumes. Additionally, the early books on the Bush presidency focus on the various aspects and dimensions of the "War on Terror." In essence, these studies challenge the justification of our deployment, the "Bush doctrine" and the assumptions of nation building. Few volumes focus on his quite substantial legislative record and impact. There are a few academic volumes on the Bush presidency, but they were completed while he was still in office. They tend to be biased and uniformly negative. *The George W. Bush Presidency: A Rhetorical Perspective* seeks to remedy this lack of academic investigation of the 43rd president and his rhetorical strategies. This volume is unique because the contributors analyze the Bush Presidency from a largely rhetorical perspective. The chapters look at the rhetoric of Bush across the contexts of domestic policy, foreign policy, the wars, and politics in general. Further, this thorough study examines the Inaugural addresses, State of the Union addresses, and addresses before joint sessions of Congress. Others analyze his political philosophy, policy issues, and his rocky relationship with the news media. Collectively, this essential text provides insight into the role of public discourse in the campaigning and governing of the George W. Bush presidency.

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ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *American Grand Strategy After 9/11: An Assessment* Stephen D. Biddle, 2005 Grand strategy integrates military, political, and economic means to pursue states ultimate objectives in the international system. American grand strategy had been in a state of ux prior to 2001, as containment of the Soviet Union gave way to a wider range of apparently lesser challenges. The 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade towers, however, transformed the grand strategy debate and led to a sweeping reevaluation of American security policy. It may still be too early to expect this reevaluation to have produced a complete or nal response to 9/11 policies as complex as national grand strategy do not change overnight. But after 3 years of sustained debate and adaptation, it is reasonable to ask what this process has produced so far, and how well the results to date serve American interests.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Understanding Rhetoric Eamon M. Cunningham, 2020-01-01 Understanding Rhetoric: A Guide to Critical Reading and Argumentation is a composition textbook that outlines three essential skills - rhetoric, argument, and source-based writing - geared towards newcomers and advanced students alike. Though comprehensive in its coverage, the book's focus is a simple one: how to move beyond a gut reaction while reading to an articulation of what is effective and what is not, while explicitly answering the most important question of Why? This text gets at this central concern in two fundamental ways. First, the text teaches composition as a cumulative process, coaching you how to question, challenge, and expand on not just the readings you hold in your hands, but also how to interrogate the internal processes of writing and thinking. The book's blend of composition methods detail the cross-point of product and process to turn reading and writing from a matter of coming up with answers to questions to learning what type of questions need to be asked in the first place. The right questions, the text argues, are fundamentally rhetorical in nature. Second, the content of the practice-based chapters is framed into a larger mesh of intellectual history to show how the writing and thinking you are doing today is continuous with a long history of writing instruction that goes back to the ancient world. This book provides equal representation from classical and contemporary theory with the recognition that theory cannot be fully grasped without practice, and practice cannot be fully understood without its theoretical antecedent. After all, you can't write outside the box until you know where the box is and what it looks like.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Rumsfeld's War Rowan Scarborough, 2013-02-05 Not since Robert McNamara has a secretary of defense been so hated by the military and derided by the public, yet played such a critical role in national security policy—with such disastrous results. Donald Rumsfeld was a natural for secretary of defense, a position he'd already occupied once before. He was smart. He worked hard. He was skeptical of the status quo in military affairs and dedicated to high-tech innovations. He seemed the right man at the right time-but history was to prove otherwise. Now Dale Herspring, a political conservative and lifelong Republican, offers a nonpartisan assessment of Rumsfeld's impact on the U.S. military establishment from 2001 to 2006, focusing especially on the Iraq War—from the decision to invade through the development and execution of operational strategy and the enormous failures associated with the postwar reconstruction of Iraq. Extending the critique of civil-military relations he began in *The Pentagon and the Presidency*, Herspring highlights the relationship between the secretary and senior military leadership, showing how Rumsfeld and a handful of advisers—notably Paul Wolfowitz and Douglas Feith—manipulated intelligence and often ignored the military in order to implement their policies. And he demonstrates that the secretary's domineering leadership style and trademark arrogance undermined his vision for both military transformation and Iraq. Herspring shows that, contrary to his public deference to the generals, Rumsfeld dictated strategy and operations—sometimes even tactics—to prove his transformation theories. He signed off on abolishing the Iraqi army, famously

refused to see the need for a counterinsurgency plan, and seemed more than willing to tolerate the torture of prisoners. Meanwhile, the military became demoralized and junior officers left in droves. Rumsfeld's Wars revisits and reignites the concept of arrogance of power, once associated with our dogged failure to understand the true nature of a tragic war in Southeast Asia. It provides further evidence that success in military affairs is hard to achieve without mutual respect between civilian authorities and military leaders—and offers a definitive case study in how not to run the office of secretary of defense.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Democracy and America's War on Terror

Robert L. Ivie, 2005 Robert Ivie discusses democracy's centrality to the national identity and how prevailing constructions of democracy constitute a republic of fear in which the threat of foreign and domestic others is chronically exaggerated through rituals of vilification and victimization.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: First 109 Minutes: 9/11 And The U.S. Air Force.

Priscilla D. Jones, 2014-08-15 Tuesday, Sep. 11, 2001, dawned cool and clear, with sunny skies all along the eastern seaboard. For Air Force aviators like Lt. Col. Timothy Duff Duffy of the 102d Fighter Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts, the day held the promise of perfect flying weather, at a time when the U.S. civil aviation system was enjoying a period of relative peace, despite concerns about a growing terrorist threat. More than ten years had passed since the last hijacking or bombing of a U.S. air carrier. That morning, however, the country came under a shocking, coordinated aerial assault by nineteen al Qaeda hijackers...The attack plan carried out by the suicide operatives had been years in the making. It was intended to cause mass, indiscriminate casualties and to destroy or damage the nation's financial, military, and political centers, four high value U.S. targets selected by bin Laden, independent operator Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and al Qaeda operations chief Mohammed Atef... By the time 1 World Trade Center, North Tower, collapsed at 10:28 a.m. EDT, almost three thousand people had been killed or were dying; the financial center of the U.S. had been reduced to burning, toxic rubble; the iconic symbol of the military strength of the country had been severely damaged; the tranquility of a field in Pennsylvania had been shattered; U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard fighter aircraft had set up combat air patrols over Washington, D.C., and New York City; and the administration of President George W. Bush and the Department of Defense (DOD) had begun shifting major resources of the federal government and military services to a new national priority, homeland defense.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *Discourse, War and Terrorism* Adam Hodges, Chad Nilep, 2007-04-11 Discourse since September 11, 2001 has constrained and shaped public discussion and debate surrounding terrorism worldwide. Social actors in the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere employ the language of the "war on terror" to explain, react to, justify and understand a broad range of political, economic and social phenomena. *Discourse, War and Terrorism* explores the discursive production of identities, the shaping of ideologies, and the formation of collective understandings in response to 9/11 in the United States and around the world. At issue are how enemies are defined and identified, how political leaders and citizens react, and how members of societies understand their position in the world in relation to terrorism. Contributors to this volume represent diverse sub-fields involved in the critical study of language, including perspectives from sociocultural linguistics, communication, media, cultural and political studies.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: *Whose Freedom?* George Lakoff, 2006-06-27 Since September 11, 2001, the Bush administration has relentlessly invoked the word freedom. The United States can strike preemptively because freedom is on the march. Social security should be privatized in order to protect individual freedoms. In the 2005 presidential inaugural speech, the words freedom, free, and liberty were used forty-nine times. Freedom is one of the most contested words in American political discourse, the keystone to the domestic and foreign policy battles that are racking this polarized nation. For many Democrats, it seems that President Bush's use of the word is meaningless and contradictory—deployed opportunistically to justify American military action abroad and the curtailing of civil liberties at home. But in *Whose Freedom?*, George Lakoff, an

adviser to the Democratic party, shows that in fact the right has effected a devastatingly coherent and ideological redefinition of freedom. The conservative revolution has remade freedom in its own image and deployed it as a central weapon on the front lines of everything from the war on terror to the battles over religion in the classroom and abortion. In a deep and alarming analysis, Lakoff explains the mechanisms behind this hijacking of our most cherished political idea—and shows how progressives have not only failed to counter the right-wing attack on freedom but have failed to recognize its nature. *Whose Freedom?* argues forcefully what progressives must do to take back ground in this high-stakes war over the most central idea in American life.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Presidents Creating the Presidency Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, 2008-05 Arguing that “the presidency” is not defined by the Constitution—which doesn’t use the term—but by what presidents say and how they say it, *Deeds Done in Words* has been the definitive book on presidential rhetoric for more than a decade. In *Presidents Creating the Presidency*, Karlyn Kohrs Campbell and Kathleen Hall Jamieson expand and recast their classic work for the YouTube era, revealing how our media-saturated age has transformed the ever-evolving rhetorical strategies that presidents use to increase and sustain the executive branch’s powers. Identifying the primary genres of presidential oratory, Campbell and Jamieson add new analyses of signing statements and national eulogies to their explorations of inaugural addresses, veto messages, and war rhetoric, among other types. They explain that in some of these genres, such as farewell addresses intended to leave an individual legacy, the president acts alone; in others, such as State of the Union speeches that urge a legislative agenda, the executive solicits reaction from the other branches. Updating their coverage through the current administration, the authors contend that many of these rhetorical acts extend over time: George W. Bush’s post-September 11 statements, for example, culminated in a speech at the National Cathedral and became a touchstone for his subsequent address to Congress. For two centuries, presidential discourse has both succeeded brilliantly and failed miserably at satisfying the demands of audience, occasion, and institution—and in the process, it has increased and depleted political capital by enhancing presidential authority or ceding it to the other branches. Illuminating the reasons behind each outcome, Campbell and Jamieson draw an authoritative picture of how presidents have used rhetoric to shape the presidency—and how they continue to re-create it.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: The Obama Syndrome Tariq Ali, 2011-09-01 Written early in 2010 and initially published in September 2010, *The Obama Syndrome* predicted the Obama administration’s historic midterm defeat. But unlike myriad commentators who have since pinned responsibility for that Democratic Party collapse on the “reform” president’s lack of firm resolve, Ali’s critique located the problem in Obama’s notion of reform itself. Barack Obama campaigned for the presidency by promising to escalate the war in Afghanistan, and his economic team brought the architects of the financial crisis into the White House. Small wonder then that the “War on Terror”—torture in Bagram, occupation in Iraq, appeasement in Israel, and escalation in Pakistan—continues. And that Wall Street and the country’s biggest corporations have all profited at the expense of America’s working class and poor. Now a thoroughly updated paperback continues the story through the midterms, including a trenchant analysis of the Tea Party, and Obama’s decision to continue with his predecessor’s tax cuts for the rich. Ali asks whether—in the absence of a progressive upheaval from below—US politics is permanently mired in moderate Republicanism. Already called “a comprehensive account” of the problems with Obama (*The Huffington Post*), this new edition is sure to provide a more “powerful boost to Obama dissenters on the left” (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*).

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Communicating Terror Joseph S. Tuman, 2003-05-20 *Communicating Terror: The Rhetorical Dimensions of Terrorism* argues that the meaning of terrorism is socially constructed and suggests a new definition of terrorism, chiefly as a process of communication between terrorists and multiple target audiences. Concise yet comprehensive, this up-to-date text examines how acts of terrorism create rhetorical acts: What messages, persuasive meanings, symbols, do acts of terrorism generate and communicate to the

world at large? These rhetorical components include definitions and labels, symbolism in terrorism, public oratory about terrorism, and the relationship between terror and media. This book examines diverse acts of terrorism, not just September 11th or recent events in the Middle East, to show the history and various effects of these acts as a medium for communication. This unique communication perspective shows how the rhetoric of terrorism is truly a war of words, symbols, and meanings.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Richard Nixon Hal Bochin, 1990-01-19

Although much has been written about Richard Nixon the man and the politician, comparatively little attention has been paid to Nixon the public speaker. This is unfortunate because it was through public speaking that Nixon, an introverted, private man, first captured public attention, won a seat in the House of Representatives, advanced to the Senate, held on to his vice presidential nomination, lost and won the presidency, and eventually molded a constituency that carried him to one of the most overwhelming presidential election victories in American history. It was also through public speaking that President Nixon attempted to defend himself against charges related to the Watergate incident and sought to save himself from impeachment. When his rhetorical efforts failed to rouse popular support, he had no choice but to resign. This volume examines the combination of personal characteristics and artistic choices that made Richard M. Nixon a successful, albeit extremely controversial, public speaker from 1946 to the present. Based on Nixon's own writings, primary materials found in special collections, a number of rhetorical studies by communication scholars, and historical case studies, the most complete picture yet of Nixon as a rhetorical strategist emerges. The study of Nixon's rhetoric is the study of many important issues, from the alleged threat of subversive communism to Vietnam to Watergate, confronting America from 1946 to 1974. It is also the study of the man himself because Nixon took an active role in the composition of all his important addresses. That both the highs and lows of Richard Nixon's career were marked by public address makes the rhetoric of Richard Nixon a worthy subject for anyone interested in political science, history, or communication and persuasion.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Going Public Samuel Kernell, 2006-10-18

Presidents are uniquely positioned to promote themselves and their policies directly to the public. Using sympathetic crowds as a backdrop, a president can rally public opinion to his side, along the way delivering a subtle yet unmistakable message to his intended audience in Congress. Samuel Kernell shows how going public remains a potent weapon in the president's arsenal, both for advancing his own agenda and blocking initiatives from his political adversaries in Congress. In his highly anticipated fourth edition, Kernell delivers thorough analysis and detailed background on how this strategy continues to evolve given the intense polarization of Congress and the electorate as well as changes in communications technology. He considers the implications of both factors—especially in combination—on the future of presidential leadership and weighs the lessons of 9/11 on going public in foreign affairs.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Penn Statements, Vol. 41 Javiera

Morales-Reyes, Elizabeth Brady, 2022-07-01 Penn Statements Volume 41 collects student compositions from the Program in Writing and Rhetoric in the Department of English at The Pennsylvania State University for use in English 15, Rhetoric and Composition courses at Penn State.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: The ALL NEW Don't Think of an Elephant!

George Lakoff, 2014

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: 9-11 Noam Chomsky, 2011-08-30 In 9-11,

published in November 2001 and arguably the single most influential post 9-11 book, internationally renowned thinker Noam Chomsky bridged the information gap around the World Trade Center attacks, cutting through the tangle of political opportunism, expedient patriotism, and general conformity that choked off American discourse in the months immediately following. Chomsky placed the attacks in context, marshaling his deep and nuanced knowledge of American foreign policy to trace the history of American political aggression--in the Middle East and throughout Latin America as well as in Indonesia, in Afghanistan, in India and Pakistan--at the same time warning

against America's increasing reliance on military rhetoric and violence in its response to the attacks, and making the critical point that the mainstream media and public intellectuals were failing to make: any escalation of violence as a response to violence will inevitably lead to further, and bloodier, attacks on innocents in America and around the world. This new edition of 9-11, published on the tenth anniversary of the attacks and featuring a new preface by Chomsky, reminds us that today, just as much as ten years ago, information and clarity remain our most valuable tools in the struggle to prevent future violence against the innocent, both at home and abroad.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: The Legal Writing Handbook Laurel Currie Oates, Anne Enquist, Kelly Kunsch, 1993

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: The Ethos of Rhetoric Michael J. Hyde, 2004 Fourteen noted rhetorical theorists and critics answer a summons to return ethics from abstraction to the particular. They discuss and explore a meaning of ethos that predates its more familiar translation as moral character and ethics. Together the contributors define ethical discourse and describe what its practice looks like in particular communities.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: An Address to a Joint Session of Congress United States. President (2001-2009 : Bush), 2001

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Screens of Terror Phil Hammond, 2011 The essays in this collection first came together at a conference, held at London South Bank University's Centre for Media and Culture Research in September 2010, on representations of the 'war on terror' in film and television.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Radical Hermeneutics John D. Caputo, 1988-01-22 Radical Hermeneutics forges a closer collaboration between hermeneutics and deconstruction than has previously been attempted. For John D. Caputo, hermeneutics means radical thinking without transcendental justification: attending to the ruptures and irregularities in existence before the metaphysics of presence has a chance to smooth them over. Part One shows how Kierkegaardian repetition and Husserlian constitution are fused in Heidegger's classic of hermeneutic statement, *Being and Time*. Part Two takes up the radicalization of Husserl's and Heidegger's questioning carried out by Derrida. Here, Caputo urges a more radical reading of Heidegger as well as a more hermeneutic reading of Derrida. Part Three argues that radical thinking is not an exercise in nihilism, as its critics charge, but a renewed vigilance about the gaps and differences inherent in our experience. Caputo projects the possibility of a postmetaphysical conception of rationality, an ethics of dissemination, and a notion of faith liberated from the onto-theo-logic. *Radical Hermeneutics* addresses the most trenchant issues in recent Continental thought.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Analysing Political Speeches Jonathan Charteris-Black, 2018-08-24 Exploring speeches by public figures such as Emma Watson, Tony Blair, Donald Trump, Julia Gillard and Lady Gaga, this engaging textbook explains the ways in which political speeches can be analysed. It examines the role of language in speeches and how it can be used to challenge or reinforce prevailing social, cultural and political attitudes. Each chapter introduces a particular discourse approach and then applies this in a model analysis of a passage of text. The chosen texts concern issues of social, cultural and political importance that address topics of significant importance to the audience to which they were delivered. Students are encouraged to engage with the text and consider how approaches to text analysis, such as cohesion, context analysis and metaphor analysis, may be adapted to provide a more critical perspective. This text will be essential reading for students of English language, linguistics, communication studies and politics on critical discourse and discourse analysis modules.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Neo-Passing Mollie Godfrey, Vershawn Young, 2018-02-21 African Americans once passed as whites to escape the pains of racism. Today's neo-passing has pushed the old idea of passing in extraordinary new directions. A white author uses an Asian pen name; heterosexuals live out as gay; and, irony of ironies, whites try to pass as black. Mollie Godfrey and Vershawn Ashanti Young present essays that explore practices, performances,

and texts of neo-passing in our supposedly postracial moment. The authors move from the postracial imagery of Angry Black White Boy and the issues of sexual orientation and race in ZZ Packer's short fiction to the politics of Dave Chappelle's skits as a black President George W. Bush. Together, the works reveal that the questions raised by neo-passing—questions about performing and contesting identity in relation to social norms—remain as relevant today as in the past. Contributors: Derek Adams, Christopher M. Brown, Martha J. Cutter, Marcia Alesan Dawkins, Michele Elam, Alisha Gaines, Jennifer Glaser, Allyson Hobbs, Brandon J. Manning, Loran Marsan, Lara Narcisi, Eden Osucha, Gayle Wald, and Deborah Elizabeth Whaley

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: Misperceptions, the Media and the Iraq War Steven Kull, 2003 A description of a series of seven public polls conducted from January-September 2003 dealing with the conflict in Iraq. Respondents were probed for key perceptions and beliefs as well as their attitudes on what US policy should be. ... It was discovered that a substantial portion of the public had a number of misperceptions that were demonstrably false or were at odds with the dominant view in the intelligence community.--Introduction.

george bush 9 11 speech rhetorical analysis: The Tragedy of American Compassion Marvin Olasky, 1994-02-01 This is a book of hope at a time when just about everyone but Marvin Olasky has lost hope. The topic is poverty and the underclass. The profound truth that Marvin Olasky forces us to confront is that the problems of the underclass are not caused by poverty. Some of them are exacerbated by poverty, but we know that they need not be caused by poverty, for poverty has been the condition of the vast majority of human communities since the dawn of history, and they have for the most part been communities of stable families, nurtured children, and low crime. It is wrong to think that writing checks will end the problems of the underclass, or even reduce them. - Preface.

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