

Speech critique-jfk innagrual address assignment

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President John F Kennedy's Inaugural Address, given on January 20, 1961 at the Capitol, was undoubtedly one of the best inaugural speeches ever given. This speech was intended to be heard by all of the citizens of the US, and with over 20, 000 in attendance, and many more watching at home on television, he reached much of his targeted audience. I believe he used this speech to inform the citizens of the United States about what he planned to do for the country while in office, as well as to motivate the citizens to come together and work toward a goal of peace and liberty, which is what he hoped to achieve.

The speech was very well organized. It seemed to have a flow to it and move easily from one point to the next. He seemed to have prepared a great deal for this speech and it is very evident in its presentation. His words were also chosen well for the audience he was addressing. Whether it was a farmer with no education listening or one of his own colleagues, they could easily understand what was being said. In his inaugural address Kennedy list ideals of liberty, abolition of poverty, and peace throughout all nations. The opening of the speech, I feel he is trying to bring a sense of unity, between one nation, and not two political parties, grabbing everyone's attention. He appeals to all the citizens in the nation and not just those of his party. The body of the speech was very focused and it didn't jump from one subject to the next. It begins by remembering our forefathers and recognizing that times have changed since then. He goes on to saying that we will stand behind any friend and against any foe and proceeds to address other nations in the world.

He seems to want to end war, have peace with everyone, and help lift up those in need. The speech did contain some effective metaphors such as, "those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger," "the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans," and "casting off the chains of poverty." The closing of the speech is a call to action, reminding every American that what happens to their nation is in their hands.

Kennedy's ideals won't be achieved in his term or his lifetime, but it is the citizen's duty to press towards achieving those

ideals for future generations. To me, the closing wasn't very memorable, however the line preceding the closing was the most memorable, so that weighed out the closing in my mind. I believe the delivery of this speech was very effective. He seems to believe in the things he is saying, therefore making everyone else believe them as well. He seemed to be very comfortable during the speech, he made eye contact with the audience, he used hand gestures when speaking a little, but they were effective and not overwhelming. His vocals were very easy to hear and he spoke at a very steady pace.

There were some parts of the speech where his voice grew louder, but this only made the speech more effective. He made many dramatic pauses at appropriate times during the speech, when he had completed one idea and was moving on to something else. The speech was relatively easy for me to understand. I actually felt a little moved by the speech. He believed so strongly in what he believed and what he wanted his nation to achieve you couldn't help but to be impressed. I enjoyed watching this speech and I believe I would enjoy hearing more from this speaker.

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