How to: Speech Analysis

A speech always has some kind of goal that the speaker wants to achieve. When you're asked to analyze a speech, you want to make clear what that goal is and what tools they are using to achieve it.

# **Preparation**

Before you begin the writing process you should:

- read the speech carefully at least twice
- higlight the information needed for the introduction
- highlight arguments made by the speaker
- highlight any special pronouns or unusual words that you come across
- highlight any stylistic devices that you notice

#### **Structure**

### Introduction:

Briefly summarize

- the speaker (who),
- the date (when),
- the location (where),
- the topic (what),
- the occasion (why) and
- the audience (to whom).

## **Body:**

The body of a speech analysis consists of three different parts:

- 1. *Analysis of content*: Briefly summarize the content of the speech.
- 2. Analysis of arguments: Examine how and why the speaker presents which arguments.
- 3. *Language analysis*: Analyze stylistic devices, pronouns (we, you), kind of language (formal vs informal),

in a video: also analyze nonverbal communication, intonation, pace and stress

#### Conclusion:

Summarize the results of your analysis and then give your own opinion. Try to make sure that the last sentence finishes your thought neatly.

*Don't* give your own opinion anywhere before this part.

# **Tips**

- use the simple present tense
- use your time to highlight things in the text or take notes before you begin writing
- make sure to always mention why the speaker said something in a certain way
- don't write overly complex sentences when you don't need to
- check for mistakes regarding spelling, grammar or punctuation at the end