

Name:

My Brother's Keeper

- ① **Read** the text.
- ② **Mark** five rhetorical devices used by Barack Obama in this speech, and **write down** what these devices are called. (5 min)
- ③ **Divide** the text into sections and **give each section a title**. (5 min)
- ④ **First mark, then sum up** the problems Obama mentions as a **reason** for his initiative and the **aim** of this initiative **in a coherent text**. (30 min)

Remarks by the President Barack Obama on the initiative "My Brother's Keeper" (MBK) on February 27, 2014:

"I told these young men my story then, and I repeat it now because I firmly believe that every child deserves the same chances that I had. And that's why we're here today -- to
5 do what we can, in this year of action, to give more young Americans the support they need to make good choices, and to be resilient, and to overcome obstacles, and achieve their dreams.

This is an issue of national importance -- it's as important as any issue that I work on. It's an issue that goes to the very heart of why I ran for President -- because if America
10 stands for anything, it stands for the idea of opportunity for everybody; the notion that no matter who you are, or where you came from, or the circumstances into which you are born, if you work hard, if you take responsibility, then you can make it in this country. That's the core idea.

And that's the idea behind everything that I'll do this year, and for the rest of my presidency. Because at a time when the economy is growing, we've got to make sure that
15 every American shares in that growth, not just a few. And that means guaranteeing every child in America has access to a world-class education. It means creating more jobs and empowering more workers with the skills they need to do those jobs. It means making sure that hard work pays off with wages you can live on and savings you can retire on and health care that you can count on. It means building more ladders of opportunity into the middle class for anybody who's willing to work hard to climb them. [...]

But the plain fact is there are some Americans who, in the aggregate, are consistently doing worse in our society -- groups that have had the odds stacked against them in unique ways that require unique solutions; groups who've seen fewer opportunities that
25 have spanned generations. And by almost every measure, the group that is facing some of the most severe challenges in the 21st century in this country are boys and young men of color. [...]

If you're African American, there's about a one in two chance you grow up without a father in your house -- one in two. If you're Latino, you have about a one in four chance.
30 We know that boys who grow up without a father are more likely to be poor, more likely to underperform in school.

As a black student, you are far less likely than a white student to be able to read proficiently by the time you are in 4th grade. By the time you reach high school, you're far more likely to have been suspended or expelled. There's a higher chance you end up in
35 the criminal justice system, and a far higher chance that you are the victim of a violent crime. Fewer young black and Latino men participate in the labor force compared to young white men. And all of this translates into higher unemployment rates and poverty rates as adults.

And the worst part is we've become numb to these statistics. We're not surprised by
40 them. We take them as the norm. We just assume this is an inevitable part of American
life, instead of the outrage that it is. [...]

In my State of the Union address last month, I said I'd pick up the phone and reach out to Americans willing to help more young men of color facing especially tough odds to stay on track and reach their full potential, so America can reach its full potential. And that's what today is all about. [...]

Today, I'm pleased to announce that some of the most forward-looking foundations in America are looking to invest at least \$200 million over the next five years -- on top of the \$150 million that they've already invested -- to test which strategies are working for our kids and expand them in cities across the country. [...]

50 We will beat the odds. We need to give every child, no matter what they look like, where
they live, the chance to reach their full potential. Because if we do -- if we help these
wonderful young men become better husbands and fathers, and well-educated, hard-
working, good citizens -- then not only will they contribute to the growth and prosperity
of this country, but they will pass on those lessons on to their children, on to their
55 grandchildren, will start a different cycle. And this country will be richer and stronger for
it for generations to come.

So let's get going. Thank you. God bless you. God bless the United States of America."

- ⑤ **With a partner: Use your phone or tablet to look up** the MBK alliance's six key milestones to success. **Choose one** of the six milestones which you find important and want to learn more about. **Write down arguments** for why the milestone you chose is important **and steps** that need to be taken to fix current issues.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.