

UNIT 1 Shaping the New World
Origins of the American Tradition to 1800

A SEEM school
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



Speech in the Virginia Convention



WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

You may already know the famous words with which **Patrick Henry** ended his **Speech in the Virginia Convention**: “*Give me liberty or give me death!*”

Explain the level of commitment suggested by these words. Under the threat of oppression, would you be willing to fight—or even to die—to preserve your freedom?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question.





1775

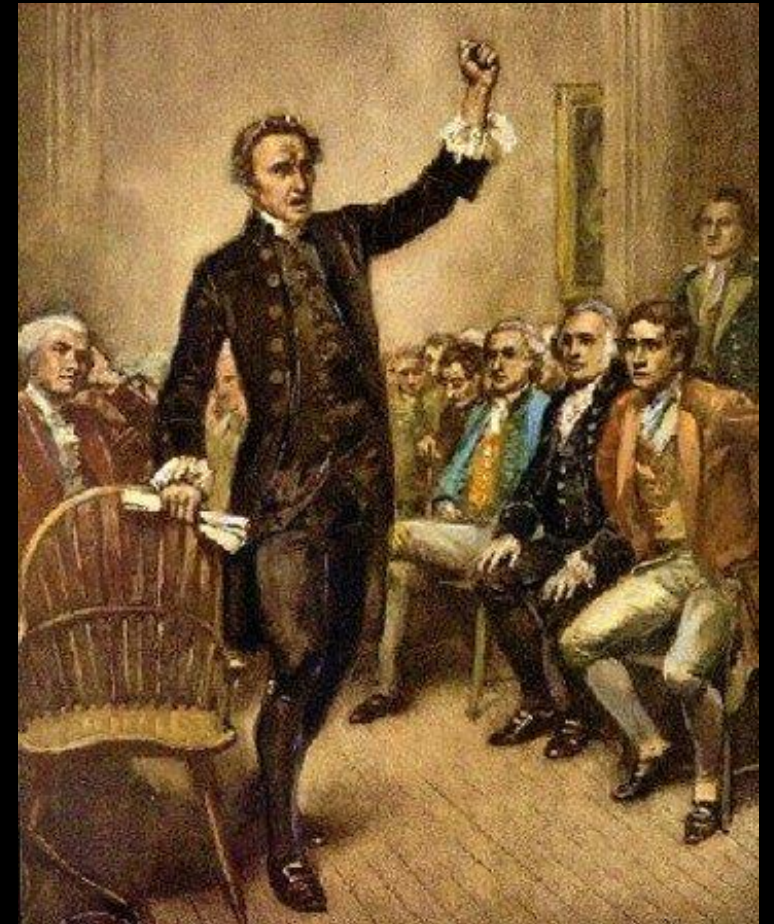


2022

THE NEGLECTED FOUNDING FATHER

There might not have been a United States if it weren't for Patrick Henry. As Founding Fathers go, the legendary orator and statesman from Virginia has never been as popular as others. A skilled speaker, Patrick Henry effectively used both emotion and reason in developing his arguments.

Additionally, Henry was the first of the American revolutionaries "*to call for independence, for revolution against Britain, for a bill of rights, and for as much freedom as possible from government – American as well as British.*"



Henry is chiefly remembered now for two fiery quotations: "If this be treason, make the most of it!" And the line that became the de facto motto of the American revolutionaries, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" Under the threat of oppression, would you be willing to fight—or even to die—to preserve your freedom?



THE SPEECH

The speech was delivered on March 23, 1775, during a time of growing political tension in the thirteen colonies. Resentment at the British Parliament's attempts to tax the American colonies had led to increasingly violent protests. These protests culminated in the Boston Tea Party in 1773, an action that prompted Parliament to place two thousand British troops in Boston. At the same time, Parliament shut down all shipping from the port and restricted self-government in Massachusetts.

NOTHING WAS THOUGHT OF BUT THIS TAXATION,
AND THE EASIEST METHOD OF LIQUIDATION.

T-A-X [CLICK HERE](#)

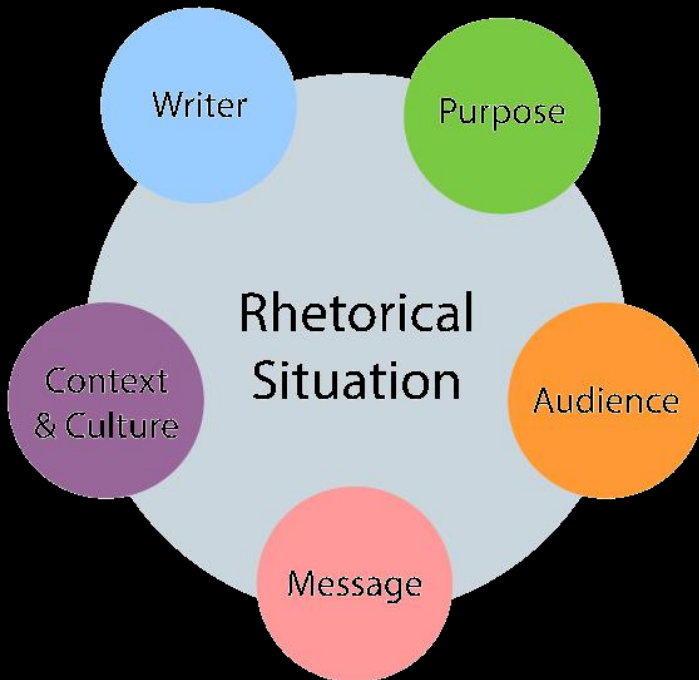
'T WAS ENOUGH TO VEX
THE SOULS OF THE MEN OF BOSTON TOWN,
TO READ THIS UNDER THE SEAL OF THE CROWN.



THEY WERE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF GEORGE THE THIRD
SO THEY BELIEVED AND SO THEY AVERRED,
BUT THIS BRISTLING, OFFENSIVE PLACARD SET
ON THE WALLS, WAS WORSE THAN A BAYONET,

LITERARY ELEMENT

A Rhetorical question



Also known as an open question, it is a question that's asked merely for effect with no answer expected. The answer is either clear from the context or immediately provided by the questioner.

Rhetorical questions are especially useful in persuasive writing and in speeches to emphasize a point. rhetorical question examples would include:

- 'If you prick us do we not bleed?'
- 'Do we really want our planet to survive?'
- 'Wouldn't you feel happier if you could wear what you wanted to school?'

LITERARY MOVEMENT

The Enlightenment

Remember that it was an 18th-century philosophical movement characterized by belief in reason, the scientific method, and the perfectibility of people and society. It was heavily influenced by 17th-century philosophers such as Descartes, Locke, and Newton, and its prominent exponents include Kant, Goethe, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Adam Smith.



A skilled speaker, Patrick Henry effectively used both emotion and reason in developing an argument. While reading his speech, write down **four rhetorical questions** Henry asks to appeal to people's **hearts and minds**. Also look for evidence of his knowledge of classical rhetoric, or persuasive communication, and other Enlightenment principles.,

In persuasion, appeals to reason use: Logical argument, Logic, Rhetoric and the Scientific method. On the other hand, appeals to emotion use: Advertising, Faith, Propaganda, Seduction, Tradition and Pity.

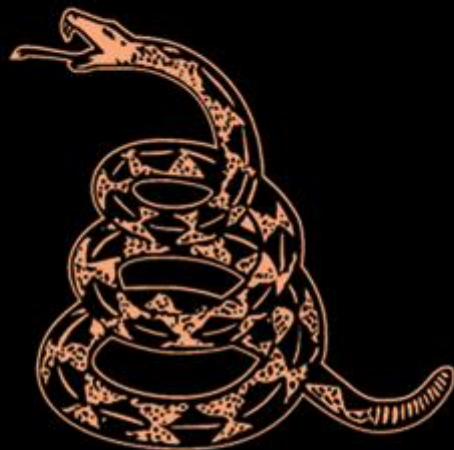


ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 51-55 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - Rhetorical Question and the Enlightenment - Review the four rhetorical questions you wrote down from Henry's speech. Next to each, write down the answer that Henry assumes his listeners will infer. What is effective about letting people answer these questions for themselves, rather than telling them the information directly?
 - What indications did you find that Patrick Henry was familiar with classical rhetoric, or persuasive communication? Where does he support the importance of using reason as a guide to action? What prediction does he make based on observable phenomena? Analyze the different ways Patrick Henry supports his conclusions.

LIBERTY



or
DEATH



DONT TREAD ON ME

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