

NAME:

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FDR "First Inaugural Address" Enrichment Activity

LITERARY ANALYSIS: Persuasive Speech & Rhetorical Devices

A persuasive speech is a speech that tries to convince listeners to think or act in a certain way. Persuasive speeches may appeal to reason or emotion or both. In order to engage the audience, speakers often include **rhetorical devices**, special patterns of words and ideas that create emphasis and stir emotion in the audience. Common rhetorical devices include the following:

- **Restatement:** expressing the same idea in different words to clarify and stress key points
- **Repetition:** expressing different ideas using the same words or images in order to reinforce concepts and unify the speech
- **Analogy:** drawing a comparison that shows a similarity between unlike things
- **Parallelism:** repeating a grammatical structure or arrangement of words to create a sense of rhythm and momentum

DIRECTIONS: Read the following excerpts from Roosevelt's "First Inaugural Address." Then, on the lines provided, answer the questions that follow.

1. *"Small wonder that confidence languishes, for it thrives only on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection, on unselfish performance. Without them it cannot live."*

A. How does this passage exemplify **parallelism**? _____

B. How does Roosevelt use **restatement** in the passage? _____

2. *"The money changers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization. We may now restore that temple to the ancient truths."*

A. How does this passage exemplify **Repetition**? _____

3. *"In the field of world policy I would dedicate this nation to the policy of the good neighbor— the neighbor who resolutely respects himself and . . . the rights of others."*

A. How does Roosevelt use **analogy** in the passage? _____

