

Cash Hilinski

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John Downe's letter to his wife uses the rhetorical strategies of imagery, comparison, and persuasive tone to create logical and emotional appeals to convince his wife to emigrate to the United States. Downe's utilization of these strategies paints a stark contrast between their life in England and what Downe is experiencing in America. In using these rhetorical strategies to create appeals, Downe makes a convincing argument as to why his wife should join him in America.

Expounding upon this, Downe creates vivid imagery of the friendly people of America and the abundant resources that lie there; he writes to his wife that, "you can gather peaches, apples, and all kinds of fruit by the side of the roads." This use of imagery appeals emotionally to his wife, who would be experiencing a dissimilar case in England. Additionally, he uses imagery to portray the friendliness of the Americans when he writes to his wife that a farmer told him he, "was welcome to come to his house at any time; they had on the table pudding, pyes, and 10 fruit of all kind." In this excerpt, he diligently describes the profusion of foods the farmer had access to and how willing he was to let Downe partake in the feast. These uses of imagery create a strong emotional appeal to Downe's wife, who was likely undergoing vastly different circumstances.

Furthermore, Downe creates logical appeal when he speaks of and compares the economies and governance of America and England. Downe logically appeals to his wife when he states, "Poverty is unknown here. You see no beggars." He makes this statement in contrast to England, where his wife resides, in which the economy has left the impoverished in the streets, so he can logically appeal to his wife's experiences. Moreover, Downe makes another logical appeal when he says, "America is not like England, for here no man thinks himself your superior." This direct comparison will logically appeal to Downe's wife, who at this point would have been feeling the negative effects of the British Crown. Downe's logical appeals are extremely effective because they are created by a comparison between America and Downe's wife's living conditions.

In conclusion, Downe's use of imagery and comparison creates logical and emotional appeals that strengthen his attempt to convince his wife to emigrate to the United States. His logical comparisons between America and England, paired with his emotional appeals of a friendly environment, work in harmony to entice his wife to follow him in emigrating to America. Ultimately, Downe's utilization of rhetorical strategies works strongly in his favor to convince his wife to emigrate to America.

Note: I am curious if it's ok to limit the rhetorical strategies to a few key ones as opposed to all of the ones used in the letter. Due to the 40-minute time limit, I feel I can better analyze the key rhetorical strategies instead of all the ones I see. If this were not the case, and I had unlimited time, I would have covered the possible counterarguments his wife could have made and how he uses rhetorical strategies to refute them. Additionally, I would have covered how he uses diction to create a persuasive tone. So I ask if I should try and cover all of these topics to the best of my ability or focus on 2 or 3 where I feel I can get a better analysis like I did in the above essay. Let me know what you think!

1. The purpose in writing my essay was to analyze the rhetorical strategies John Downe uses in his letter to convince his wife to emigrate to the United States.

2. To prepare for writing this essay I carefully read Downe's letter to his wife and highlighted any rhetorical strategy I saw. Additionally, I took notes of how those rhetorical strategies create appeals aimed to convince his wife of his argument.

3. I believe I correctly analyzed the rhetorical strategies I chose. I believe I gave good textual evidence with commentary as to how they created appeals.

4. Next time I have a similar essay prompt, I would like to include the counter argument as well as more rhetorical strategies and textual evidence.

5. One area of my essay I would like to improve is simply the rate at which I analyze and write. This can be done by practicing analyzing different LSS resources and taking notes on what rhetorical strategies were used.