

Name _____

PRINT and handwrite

Read the speech below annotated to help you identify the following:

- The speaker's message
- The speaker's purpose
- Rhetorical choices—Powerful diction (word choice) and syntax (sentence structure). Look for moments that you find to be powerful or moving and ask, "How is the speaker using language to have the effect?" Pay attention to patterns.

Answer the questions at the end of the speech.

Be ready to discuss this when you return from break.

Mitch McConnell | *Senate Floor Speech Following Capitol Building Incursion* | delivered 6 January 2021, Washington, D.C.

I want to say to the American people, the United States Senate will not be intimidated. We will not be kept out of this chamber by thugs, mobs, or threats. We will not bow to lawlessness or intimidation. We are back at our posts. We will discharge our duty under the Constitution and for our nation. And we're going to do it tonight.

This afternoon, Congress began the process of honoring the will of the American people and counting the Electoral College votes. We have fulfilled this solemn duty every four years for more than two centuries. Whether our nation's been at war or at peace, under all manner of threats; even during an ongoing armed rebellion and the Civil War, the clockwork of our democracy has carried on.

The United States and the United States Congress have faced down much greater threats than the unhinged crowd we saw today. We've never been deterred before and we'll be not deterred today. They tried to disrupt our democracy -- they failed. They failed. They failed to attempt to obstruct the Congress. This failed insurrection only underscores how crucial the task before us is for our Republic.

Our nation was founded precisely so that the free choice of the American people is what shapes our self-government and determines the destiny of our nation. Not fear. Not force. But the peaceful expression of the popular will.

Now, we assembled this afternoon to count our citizens' votes and to formalize their choice of the next President. Now we're going to finish what we started. We'll complete the process the right way, by the book. We'll follow our precedents, our laws, and our Constitution to the letter. And we will certify the winner of the 2020 presidential election.

Criminal behavior will never dominate the United States Congress.

This institution is resilient.

Our democratic republic is strong.

The American people deserve nothing less.

<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/barackobama/barackobamafarewelladdress.htm>

Answer the following questions. Note you do not need to address these in order.

Speaker Who is the speaker and what do they do to establish credibility (or ethos) with their audience?

Occasion/Exigence What is the context in which this speech is delivered? What might be motivating and compelling the speaker to speak this speech at this time in this place?

Audience Who is the speaker appealing to? What are the values the speaker assumes their audience to have?

Purpose What is the speaker trying to achieve? What does he want from his audience?

Subject What is the subject of the speaker? What is the message or main idea?

Rhetorical Analysis Identify and analyze two rhetorical choices Obama makes to convey his message. In other words, analyze how Obama uses specific language choices effectively. Use specific evidence from the text to support your line of reasoning.

Choice 1

Choice 2