**Instructions:** Use the guiding questions in this worksheet to help you take notes on the speech you have selected. You should use the information in the speech itself along with general information you find on the Internet to answer the questions.

Keep in mind that whatever speech you choose for this assignment, you will be analyzing that same speech for the next few weeks and eventually writing your Rhetorical Analysis about that speech. Be sure you picked one you’re willing to read many times and study in depth!

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| FIRST READING | |
| **TITLE of the SPEECH:** “Dear Class of 2020”  **AUTHOR/SPEAKER:** Lady Gaga  **DATE:** May 2020 | |
| **Initial Impressions:** How did you initially feel after reading the speech? Why do you think you felt that way? | I feel inspired by her passionate plea for kindness, and her encouragement for young people to uproot the forest of racism in the U.S. and grow a better forest in its place. |
| **Quality of Argument:** Does the speaker make any good points? What are they? Do they make any poor points? What are they? | Her strongest point seems to be racism won’t be easy to fix (it took a long time to grow the current forest), but with time and effort we can make the world better. |
| **Further Study:** Are there any terms, situations, descriptions, etc. the speaker uses that you should research or study? What are they? | I actually don’t know much about Lady Gaga (other than her music) so I’m going to look up her bio/background. |

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| RHETORICAL SITUATION | *Notes: (Be sure to include links to any sources you use to find out background information. You may need to include them on your references page.)* |
| **Author/Speaker:** When and where did they live? What are significant events from their life? | Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta (Mar. 28, 1986 - present)   * Italian-American from New York * Studied piano, music, etc. from a young age * One of the most successful music artists of all time; she is also an actress and activist (particularly for LGBTQ+ youth)   Source: Wikipedia |
| **Audience:** Who was the speech for? Was there more than one audience (intended, unintended)? What are the characteristics of this group? Do they all share a similar nationality or job? Or are they very diverse? | U.S. high school seniors in 2020  - these students could be anywhere in the U.S., so they are diverse, but they are similar because they were all transitioning to adulthood at a scary time in U.S./world history (pandemic, protests on racial violence, big political divide, etc.) |
| **Purpose:** Why did they give the speech? What does the author/speaker want to accomplish? What do they want the audience to think, feel, and/or do? | Lady Gaga has multiple purposes:   1. To inspire/uplift 2020 graduates who may feel sad and uncertain about their future because of the pandemic and other upheaval 2. To encourage students to work to end racism in the U.S. 3. To encourage kindness |
| **Tone:** What is the author/speaker’s tone? Are they argumentative, passionate, reverent, objective, funny, serious, and/or a combination of these? | The author is clearly very passionate and serious about the subject. She speaks slowly and carefully, showing that she’s thought a lot about what she’s saying. |
| **Time/Setting:** Where and when was the speech given? What significant things were going on in the world or near this place that may have influenced the speech? | The speech was recorded so that it could easily be distributed and shared across multiple platforms. Since no in-person graduations were possible, it had to be virtual.  Her outfit is unconventional for a graduation, but Gaga is known for crazy outfits, so it fits her perfectly. |
| **Stance:** How does the author/speaker feel about the issue they’re discussing? What/who is the opposition? How do they frame the opposing side? How do they frame their side? Are they fair/balanced? Or very one-sided? | Gaga is very passionate about the problem of racism in the U.S. (she changed her whole speech to address the death of George Floyd), so it’s clear that she would support a movement like Black Lives Matter.  She doesn’t really address the “other side” or criticize any particular group. She focuses more on encouraging students to get involved. |

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| RHETORICAL APPEALS | Notes: |
| **Ethos (character, credibility):** How does the author demonstrate their own credibility (credentials, personal experience, etc.)? What other sources does the author use to boost their credibility (respected leaders, research, statistics, etc.)? | No appeal to personal credibility (her credentials as a musician/actress are probably already obvious to the audience) |
| **Pathos (emotion, value):** How does the author appeal to the values and emotions of the audience? Do they use motivating emotions like fear or compassion? Do they try to identify with the audience (e.g. I’m just like you…)? | Appeal to shared suffering—this year has been hard for all of us, especially hard for you  Appeal to injustice—it’s not right that so many black people are suffering violence in the U.S.  Appeal to goodness—kindness matters and simple acts of kindness can make the world better, especially listening to others  Appeal to potential/exceptionalism of 2020 – because of what they’ve endured, these graduates are going to be able to do more to improve the future than others that came before them |
| **Logos (logic, structure):** Does the author use a clear structure (first/second/third)? Does the author use a set of guiding questions or principles? Does the author use repetition of key words or phrases for emphasis? | Gaga uses the metaphor of a forest to explain how the U.S. has come to its present moment, and she repeats words like “seeds” and “trees” throughout the speech. At the end, she reinforces this metaphor with her last line: “I can’t wait to see your forest.” |