

Analysis of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Pearl Harbor Address to the Nation"

Franklin D. Roosevelt's speech the day after Pearl Harbor had multiple objectives. Not only did he have to break the news of the tragedy that occurred at Pearl Harbor, but he also had to rally the American people together and urge Congress to declare war on Japan. His overall message in his address to get his objectives across was to make Americans angry and let them never forget what happened the day before.

Roosevelt used two persuasive strategies that established credibility and alleviated his audiences' concerns, using ethos and heavy pathos. He starts off using ethos and being formal with his address, using official-sounding language and titles to help display his authority not only to Americans but also to the rest of the world. His use of ethos throughout his speech also convinces his audience to the belief that war is the right and only option. He then transitions into using a substantial amount of pathos, making his audience displeased and exasperated.

Roosevelt's persuasive strategies worked well, because minutes after his address Congress declared war, and the United States of America was fully united against the Japanese. I wouldn't use different strategies, because his approach to the address was flawless in creating a fit of anger towards Japan. Roosevelt's choice of voice was appropriate in the given circumstances. An attack like this had never happened before, and he made his point clear of how he wanted to proceed afterward. Roosevelt started his speech by saying, "Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked ...", setting the tone for the rest of the speech. Words he used like infamy and deliberately pierced the hearts of Americans, and he continued this tone of voice throughout his speech continually keeping those listening angry and wanting revenge. Overall, Roosevelt's

persuasive strategies and voice helped convince Americans to take action against Japan and charged into World War 2 with conviction.