Daniel George

CAT 125

Professor Geibel

8/27/2021

Week 4 Lecture Activity

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWynt87PaJ0>
2. This is Obama’s speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. His purpose/ thesis was to garner support for the democratic party, explain the party’s platform, and show his support for the democratic candidate that year, John Kerry. I think that the democratic party did a good job in choosing Obama for this speech; he did an amazing job at presenting the party platform and bringing people together in support of John Kerry. In hindsight, Kerry lost the election, so one could say that the speech failed, but the chances were slim considering that the current president Bush was running for a second term.
3. I think that the speech was successful in all aspects.
   1. I think that the visuals of the speech were very successful. It was a fairly traditional political speech in that it did not have accompanying slides or video accompanying the speech, but Obama did make effective use of hand gestures. He used his hand in a pointed position to accentuate the impactful words in his sentences. In what I think is the most iconic part of the speech (the part of the speech where he makes many statements like “there is no black America or White America, only the United States of America.”) he alternates hands for black and white, showing the contrast. He returns to the center for America showing the unity. Overall Obama’s use of hand gestures was hugely effective. His eye contact seems to engage even a crowd this big.
   2. He varies his volume and tone to maintain interest but doesn’t vary his voice as much as a drama performance or a comedy routine.
   3. I think that the content of the speech was beautifully written. The part of speech that stood out most to me was the storytelling of his background. I think that this was successful in relating to almost the entire crowd. He talks about one side of his family’s humble upbringing in Kenya. This appeals to the numerous immigrants that live in America. He then talks about the other side of his family, explaining how his grandfather served in the military. This appeals to Americans that have been in the country for longer. This appeal to both crowds gives context to who he is as well as makes it more relatable to almost everyone in the audience.
4. Some of Obama’s authority comes from his ability to relate with the audience by telling his story. Another crucial part of his authority comes from his masterful speech delivery. He is clearly highly educated, by the words he chooses (like the latin phrases), and the experience with which he delivers the speech.
5. I think that I can learn from the meter/pace at which he delivers his speech, and also the hand gestures that he makes.