1) What is the Kairotic Moment for each of these speeches?

Both both Martin Luther King (MLK) and Malcom X their speeches were given during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, a time when Black Americans were fighting for equal rights and an end to the racial discrimination. Their speeches’ rhetoric appeal is the pathos, since they use emotional phrases for reminding either how much their ancestor suffered in the past or how happy the afroamerican community will be “one day” without racism, in order to gete people’s attention and inspire them to follow the movement.

For the MLK’s speech, it was motivated by slow progress of civil rights and wanted to inspire change. His arguments are based on the issues of the afroamerican society, the segergation on buses, harassment in schools, and daily racism. Also, given that MLK was inspired by Mahatma Ghandi, it explains why in MLK’s “I have a dream” speech has a completely different tone, compared with Malcom X’s, and encourage nonviolence.

For Malcom X’s speech, the motivation is the continued oppression of afroamericans given in those years. He wanted to promote a mindset of pride but at the same time awareness about the years afroamericans have been devoting their lives to their masters thinking that one day they will be free in heaven.

2) Explain similarities and differences in the audience of each speech?

In both MLK’s and Malcom X’s speeches, the audience is diverse. In the videos provided one can see the presence of black and white americans. But the MLK’s audience was people who believed in nonviolent protest. The speech suited this audience well by emphasizing unity and shared American values.

On the other hand, for Malcom X’s, the majority of the audience was black americans who were frustrated with the slow pace of change. He emphasized taking action by their own hands, in other words, to be self-reliant.

3) Compare/contrast each speech/writer by analyzing their vision and identity.

In the case of MLK, he was risen in a united religious family. When he grew up, he became a Baptist minister and also got a doctorate in theology which really influenced his actions. After meeting Gandhi’s “methodology” to protest, he found a way to develop further protests emphasizing nonviolence. His speech is really dominated by the union, hope and peace on top of the entire population of America.

For Malcom X, he grew up in a constantly harassed family. The lost of his father when he was young, the shock his mother had as a consequence of this death and the following separation from his siblings seems to poses as a turning point for him during his childhood that later in his youth lead him to be in jail for violating the law. In his speech he emphasizes Black pride, self-defense and separation from the white society.

4) The genre we are looking at in both cases here are speeches. How does the genre and the arguments place of publication influence its content?

MLK’s speech was given at a major public event, in front of the Lincoln’s statue which influenced its more inclusive tone and resembled the emancipation proclamation Lincoln issued on 1863.

Malcom X’s speech was given to a more reduced group of people, allowing for a more direct and confrontational style.

5) Compare/contrast the writing style of the two different authors.

MLK used a poetic language and lots of metaphors. Also, he includes god frequently: “I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted… And the power of the Lord shall be revealed…”. Additionally, he uses longer, more complex sentences using formal tone that still connected emotionally with the audience without losing the unity and hope as main arguments.

For Malcom X he used a more direct, forceful language with shorter, but punchier sentences that have a passionate, and sometimes angry, tone. In one passage of his speech he says: “Let’s show him how to struggle, let’s show him how to fight, let’s show him how to bring about a real revolution” arguing that MLK’s revolution might not succeed because of the lack of real action, or fight.