

PATRICK HENRY'S SPEECH TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION

Notes

Persuasion: using logical
appeals and/or emotional
appeals to convince
someone of something

Logical appeals: reasons
using facts, examples,
numbers...has real proof

Example:

Premise 1: All men are mortal.

Premise 2: Socrates is a man.

Conclusion: Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

Emotional Appeal: makes the reader feel strongly about a topic, may not be supported by facts

Example:
Think of the children.

The main purpose of Patrick Henry's speech is to persuade his fellow delegates at the Virginia Convention that they need to fight the British

He encourages immediate action by colonists because he says the conflict has already begun and the colonists have no other choice but to fight

Logical appeals:

Henry points out a contradiction between British claims of wanting peace and their growing military presence in America

He says his actions are guided by “the lamp of experience”

Emotional Appeal:

“There is no retreat, but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged!”

Persuasive Techniques: Repetition and Restatement

Parallelism -

“We have petitioned;
we have remonstrated;
we have supplicated.”

Rhetorical Questions – asks a question in which the answer is already known

example: “And what have we to oppose [the British government]? Shall we try argument?”

His point: we have nothing to fight them with because arguments don't work.