**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rhetorical Elements from Patrick Henry’s “Speech in the Virginia Convention”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rhetorical Element** | **Textual Support** (cite directly from text & enclose in quotation marks; include page #) |
| **Repetition** |  |
| **Restatement** |  |
| **Parallelism** |  |
| **Antithesis** |  |
| **Rhetorical Questions** |  |
| **Logical Appeals**  **(Logos)** |  |
| **Emotional Appeals**  **(Pathos)** |  |
| **Ethical Appeals**  **(Ethos)** |  |
| **Allusion**  *A reference to a well-known work, person, etc.*  *(often biblical or historical)* |  |
| **Metaphor or Simile**  *Comparison of two unlike things*  *(simile uses “like” or “as”; metaphor does not)* |  |
| **Personification**  *Giving human traits to something non-human* |  |
| **Imagery**  *Descriptive or figurative language that creates word pictures for the reader* |  |
| **Aphorism**  *Short saying with a message* |  |

**Patrick Henry’s “Speech in the Virginia Convention” (pp. 200-206)**

**Background**

* Considered the most powerful orator of the American Revolution
* Governor of Virginia
* Lawyer before elected to House of Burgesses
* Known for his powerful *Speech at the Virginia Convention*

He presents a well-constructed argument with a clear beginning, middle, and end:

**Beginning** –

* First part of argument considers what the British will do, and answers in light of past behavior (no way of judging future except by the past)
* Logical appeal – a county that amasses such a huge army/navy must be preparing for war.

**Middle** –

* He considers what Virginia should do and offers reasons for urging resistance
  + Try argument – trying for 10 years to no avail
  + Try pleading – no response
  + Refutation (weaken arguments by those who want to continue diplomacy)
* Call to arms – “We must fight!” for three reasons:
  + The country will never be stronger
  + God is on our side and will provide us allies (France)
  + War is coming – submit or fight

**End –**

* Ends with a Biblical allusion – “Peace, peace; when there is no peace.” Jeremiah 6:14

(means the war has already started)

* Call to action = famous line – “I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”