





## Final Project: Time of Crisis-Presidential Speeches

During a time of crisis, the President can make a difference in the feelings of the American public. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century America was attacked on its soil twice, Pearl Harbor and September 11<sup>th</sup>. In this assignment, you will be comparing and contrasting the speeches made by the presidents during each of these catastrophic events.

Please answer the following questions about each of these speeches:

	FDR: Pearl Harbor	George Bush: 9/11
What happened during the crisis?	On December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 1941, a date which shall live in infamy, Japanese forces attacked, without provocation, the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Japanese Declaration of War ended up not being received and translated until after the attack had commenced, making the military action even more dishonorable.	On the morning of September 11, 2001, Islamist Terrorists hijacked four commercial US flights, crashing two into the World Trade Center Towers in New York and one into the Pentagon. Passengers on the fourth regained control but crashed it in a field in Stonycreek Township, PA.
Who is the audience of the speech?	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addresses the Congress of the United States, asking them to recognize the state of war between the USA and Japan and declare war accordingly.	This address wasn't made directly to Congress, and it was also televised unlike FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech. George W. Bush spoke directly to the American people and informed them of what happened and what would happen next.
Was there any discussion of politics?	There was no discussion of politics, per se, only an urging to reciprocate the actions taken by Japan and enter the war.	Again, no discussion of politics. This was an attack on America as a whole and America would retaliate as a whole.
How did the speech treat the enemy?	The Japanese were made to seem criminal, warlike, cruel, power-hungry, and expansionist. They were a wild animal that America needed to put down before it caused further undue	Those who committed the act were called terrorists and labeled as an example of "the very worst of human nature." They were labeled as evil, in effect dehumanizing them and

	harm.	making them an easy target for our anger and retribution. Those who committed the act and those who harbored terrorists were not made distinct or separate and were now enemies of America.
Where the allies mentioned?	No particular references were made outside of mentions of areas taken by the Japanese, which included the British Territories of Hong Kong and Malaya.	George Bush referenced “[America’s] friends and allies join with with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism.” This indicated that we were not alone in the fight.
What are the strengths of the speech?	The organization of certain segments of the speech, such as the part wherein Roosevelt lists the areas recently attacked by Japan, utilize repetition to really drive home the point that Japan is an expansionist threat that has to be dealt with. There is emotional appeal, but it is largely the appeal of revenge for a dishonorable blow. The speech is eloquent, firing up those who hear it and inspiring a desire to follow through on FDR’s call to action.	George Bush, speaking to the American people, primarily, and not directly to Congress, appeals more to the sentiments of those people. He appeals to their patriotism, their emotion, and the speech is made to be very moving. He uses imagery such as, “Fires burning, huge -- huge structures collapsing...,” and tells us to feel “disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet unyielding anger.” He states that as fact, making the listener feel it even if they didn’t before. He calls the terrorists evil. They are not just enemies who have been dishonorable, but that which is unholy and will be dealt with. Again, this ends up inspiring the listener to follow through on the call-to-action.
What are the weakness of	Franklin Roosevelt’s	George Bush’s speech is

<p>the speech?</p>	<p>speech doesn't request support for the war, only for America to recognize it and participate. The emotional appeal isn't direct for the average person, but this is subjective. Largely, the speech did its job.</p>	<p>more emotional and less business-like than Roosevelt's, which can be taken as a strength of weakness. Basic actions being taken by the government are laid out, but no specific, direct request is made of the American people besides uniting and standing firm and patriotic.</p>
		
		

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