

AP Lang Rhetorical Analysis Sample Response (Score 6)

Prompt:

Analyze the rhetorical strategies the author uses to persuade readers that civic participation is essential in a democratic society.

Essay:

In her speech advocating for civic participation, the author argues that active engagement is not merely a right but a responsibility essential to the survival of democracy. To persuade her audience, she employs ethical appeals to establish credibility, logical reasoning to demonstrate the consequences of apathy, and an urgent yet hopeful tone that motivates readers to act.

The author first establishes credibility through ethical appeals, positioning herself as a knowledgeable and trustworthy voice. By referencing historical moments when citizen involvement led to meaningful change, she aligns herself with widely respected democratic ideals. This appeal to shared values encourages the audience to view her argument as informed and reliable.

In addition to ethos, the author relies heavily on logical reasoning to support her claim. She presents clear cause-and-effect relationships, explaining how low voter turnout weakens representative institutions and leads to policies that fail to reflect public needs.

Finally, the author's tone shifts from cautionary to motivating, reinforcing her purpose. While she acknowledges the dangers of political apathy, she avoids despair by emphasizing the power individuals possess to create change.

Through ethical appeals, logical reasoning, and a purposeful tone, the author effectively persuades readers that civic participation is vital to democracy.