

Question 2 2016 Samples

Samples are typed as students wrote them.

*For the purposes of scoring, analysis means explaining the rhetorical choices an author makes in an attempt to achieve a particular effect or purpose.

Sample A Score 1

Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister of Great Britain, wrote an eulogy to the American people in honor of former United States President Ronald Reagan to show the great work and sympathy towards his terms of presidency.

Thatcher used her experience with Ronald Reagan to explain his movements. Describes his personality during situations and how well he took care of it. She also explains how he creates friendships with his enemies.

She shows her sympathy by using his achievements. Created freedom, opportunities and carried his people with him on his great endeavours all because he loved America. (97 words)

Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for the score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation, or weak in their control of language.

Sample B, Score 2

Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of Great Britain, knew President Reagan very well. During the height of the Cold War, they worked closer than before to save the world basically. Her purpose of writing this eulogy was to inform the American people of his importance and how he was what we needed during this time period. This extremely admiring and emotional tone was fairly executed by using devices such as parallel structure, repetition, and short, stagnant sentences.

Thatcher's repetition consisted throughout the whole eulogy. She wanted all of the attention poured on him and all of the good things he has done for this country. She used the words when his, and he did this, and also used President a lot to resurrect him as if he was still alive.

She also used parallel structure towards the beginning. She said "... free world, and to free the slaves ..." and "... from every class and every nation ...". This made you focus not on the words but on the meaning behind them.

Her usage of short/stagnant sentences also affected me as the reader. The short sentences gave what she was trying to say, more recognition. He deserved more recognition for what he did than what he should've gotten. Each of these sentences were equally emotional which brought in the tone.

Thatcher used her own experiences that were personal, and shared them with everyone willing to listen. Her emotional tone paired well with the admiring undertones that were also present. Thatcher gave an excellent eulogy for the former president Ronald Reagan. (271 words)

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in analyzing the rhetorical strategies that Thatcher uses to convey her message. The student may misunderstand the prompt, misread the passage, fail to analyze the strategies Thatcher uses, or substitute a simpler task by responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate explanation. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of control.

Sample C Score 3

Margaret Thatcher, on June 11, 2004, delivered a eulogy in honor of former United States president Ronald Reagan. Thatcher uses parallelism, polysyndeton, and periodic sentences to convey her message about Ronald Reagan.

Margaret Thatcher uses parallelism. She uses parallelism to show balance as she ways out the great things Ronald Reagan had done. For example, Thatcher said, “He sought to mend . . . to restore . . . to free the slaves of communism.”

Thatcher also uses polysyndeton. She uses polysyndeton to exaggerate her points about him. It is like when you are getting in trouble by your parents and they say something like, “you didn’t clean your room and you didn’t wash the dishes and you didn’t feed the dogs and you didn’t water the garden.” She used it to exaggerate what Reagan had done for the country, made it seem like he did a lot more.

Thatcher also used periodic sentences. She used periodic sentences so the audience had to listen to every detail about Reagan to hear her main point. For example, “So the president . . . its own failures.” She used that sentence to explain to her audience about the Soviet weakness.

Margaret Thatcher delivered a eulogy in honor of former United States president, Ronald Reagan. She used parallelism, polysyndeton, and periodic sentences to convey her message. (223 words)

Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but demonstrate less success in analyzing the rhetorical strategies that Thatcher uses to convey her message. They are less perceptive in their understanding of the passage or Thatcher’s strategies, or the explanations or examples may be particularly limited or simplistic. The essays may show less maturity in control of writing.

Sample D Score 4

Margaret Thatcher creates a tone of peace explaining that Ronald Reagan’s time as President was not wasted and his goals had been achieved during his time in office. Thatcher wanted to reassure her audience that Reagan fulfilled all of his aspirations in making America greater by using reassuring diction, appealing to pathos, and juxtaposition.

In a time of deep sadness after the loss of a dear President, Thatcher was able to make her audience feel at ease by using words like “he sought to mend America’s wounded spirit, to restore the strength of the free world, and to free the slaves of communism”, “in terrible hours after the attempt on his life, his easy jokes gave reassurance to an anxious world”, this reassures the world that Ronald Reagan was pleased with what he had achieved in turn giving him the title of a good President because he did what he came to do, strengthen America.

Thatcher made a strong appeal to pathos throughout her entire eulogy by describing in further detail her opening sentence, “We have lost a great president, a great American, and a great man, and I have lost a dear friend.” By explaining Reagan’s humor, evaluating the work he’s done for America, and explaining the complexity of his goals through the statements, “Yet his humor often had a purpose beyond humor” and “Yet his ideas, so clear, were never simplistic”. A strong appeal to pathos worked in Thatcher’s favor to achieve her goal. (246 words)

Alongside reassuring diction and her appeal to pathos, Thatcher also creates a juxtaposition. Her juxtaposition is evident in this statement, “He transformed a stagnant economy into an engine of opportunity.” Putting two different things together next to each other really

emphasized the beauty of what Reagan did during his Presidency which works to prove her purpose. Moving from one extreme to the other brings out the amount of power Reagan must have had to create such a drastic change.

Thatcher's place and use of reassuring diction, appeal to pathos, and juxtaposition create an excellent description of Reagan's presidency. She was successful in convincing her audience that Ronald Reagan's time in office was not wasted and truly beneficial to America.

Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** analyze the rhetorical strategies that Thatcher uses to convey her message. These essays may misunderstand the passage, misrepresent the strategies Thatcher uses, or analyze these strategies insufficiently. The evidence or explanations used may be inappropriate, insufficient, or unconvincing. The prose generally conveys the writer's ideas but may be inconsistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

Sample E Score 5

Margaret Thatcher asserts that former president, Ronald Reagan, was full of nothing but goodness. She conveys this through her use of personal experience + pathos, as well as parallelism + positive diction. Thatcher's purpose of the eulogy is to reveal the true nature of President Reagan + honor his character + accomplishments. She addresses the American people so that they, too, can appreciate the former president's time in office.

Firstly, Thatcher opens in the first person plural point of view, "we," inviting the U.S. citizens into the experience of his loss. She ends the same opening sentence by transitioning to "I" in the first person singular point of view in order to recognize her personal account of losing "a dear friend." She repeats the adjective "great" in describing Reagan first + foremost to show the regard she has for him.

Next, the diction Thatcher uses is only euphonious in portraying Reagan's character. His goals for America were "to mend . . . , to restore . . . , & to free." He always remained "sane + jocular," + established policies with "a freshness + optimism." His ideas were "so clear" yet "never simplistic." He could sense "the many sides of truth." All of this positivity serves to evince Thatcher's view of Reagan as good-hearted + determined for success.

Also, Thatcher presents a contrast between the goals of others + the achievements of Reagan as president of the U.S. She does this through the use of parallel structure. "Others prophesied . . . decline . . . He inspired . . . with renewed faith . . . Others saw only limits to growth . . . He transformed a stagnant economy into an engine of opportunity. Others hoped, at best for an uneasy cohabitation with the Soviet Union. He won the Cold War . . . by inviting enemies out of their fortress + turning them into friends." The great opposition between the two + the success of the latter, Reagan, further express the need to honor his life.

As Thatcher "had time + cause to reflect on what made [Reagan] a great president," she compiled a definitely adequate eulogy for the death of her close friend by her personal appeal + honorable choice of words. (375 words)

Essays earning a score of 5 analyze the rhetorical strategies that Thatcher uses to convey her message. The evidence or explanations used may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer's ideas.

Sample F Score 6

Eulogies are almost always sincere with deep feelings that are meant to sympathize with the mournful audience. Margaret Thatcher's eulogy does just that with her mix of sorrowful but hopeful rhetoric. In Margaret Thatcher's eulogy to America in honor of Ronald Reagan, she uses parallelism, along with the repetition of syntax in order to create an appeal to the pathos of the American audience.

Margaret Thatcher first introduces parallelism in the opening paragraph when she addresses President Reagan as "a great American", "a great man", and "a dear friend." By addressing him in these three different ways, Margaret is able to address and sympathize with the feelings of the majority of the crowd. She calls him "a great American" as many people can see him as a liberal figure. She calls him "a great man" as many can see him as an arguably accomplished president. She calls him "a dear friend" in order to sympathize with the feelings of the crowd, who all felt close to Reagan as well.

Margaret Thatcher also uses repetition of similar syntax and diction in order to emphasize certain aspects and traits that President Reagan held. She repeats the structure "others" followed by a verb in order to display the doubts many had during his presidency. However, Margaret consistently follows that structure with an unexpected truth that would prove Reagan's persistence and ability. He opened up the west when others looked at its decline and he pulled up the economy when others saw only limits to growth. Margaret continues her repetition in her repeated usage of the word "Yes." In one of her paragraphs, she used "yes" to start a sentence that acknowledged the reasonings behind his actions. She continues to do this to not only glorify those actions, but also portray the insight he had during the Cold War despite it being an era of tension and burden.

Lastly, Margaret's overall language choice appeals to the audience's pathos. She touches upon the conversation of freedom many times as she wants to emphasize and display her understanding of America. By doing this, she is able to connect to the audience's sorrow after losing a president, that symbolized "freedom" and in a sense, was a model "American." She uses language such as "magnanimity" and "prosperity" to associate with Ronald Reagan because many saw him as a liberal president that brought America up from the plights of tension during the Cold War. As this is a eulogy, Margaret Thatcher was able to sympathize with the audience and portray her sorrow in losing such a righteous person she once worked with.

Margaret Thatcher's use of parallelism, repetition of syntax and diction, and language to appeal to the audience's pathos are all rhetorical devices in order to console the audience. She does not make the purpose of her eulogy any more than that. She ends her speech with her description of Reagan's personality. Margaret Thatcher was able to portray her emotional connection with the crowd and commemorate all the accomplishments Reagan achieved. (504 words)

Essays earning a score of 6 **adequately** analyze the rhetorical strategies that Thatcher uses to convey her message. They develop their analysis with evidence and explanations that are appropriate and sufficient, referring to the passage explicitly or implicitly. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

Sample G Score 7

Thatcher incorporates several types of rhetorical strategies to convey her message. Thatcher's purpose was to give a speech commemorating and honoring the late President of the United States: Ronald Reagan. Her message is to honor the service and abilities Reagan utilized and almost sacrificed to deliver the health and security of his nation. Thatcher utilizes ethos, tone, and symbolism to effectively deliver her message to the audience.

The audience Thatcher has is the American people. In order to be patriotic, and act as a formidable speaker, Thatcher utilizes ethos, the appeal to authority, as a method to establish credibility for her message. She appeals to the Americans by stating her title and relation to

President Reagan: “As prime minister, I worked closely with Ronald Reagan for eight of the most important years of all our lives”(Thatcher 55). Portrayed as a world leader (of Britain) and a close ally of Reagan, Thatcher quickly convinces the audience that she has credibility to deliver her message. Thatcher also makes her credibility much more personal and profound. Thatcher refers to Reagan as a dear friend (2). From the beginning of her speech to the midst of it all, Thatcher continually employs ethos to make her message more credible, as it is already being delivered by a woman of great leadership and friendship.

Thatcher’s tone is described as being reverent. The usage of certain vocabulary and the structure of sentences shows the audience that Thatcher pays a respectful style towards Reagan. In the middle of her speech, Thatcher utilizes short sentences to provide gravity to her message “He had firm principles [...] He expounded [...] He acted”(59). Here, the short yet powerful sentences provide a structure to indicate that she believed that Reagan was a sincere and honorable leader. Her simplistic descriptions of Reagan’s ethics define her tone to be reverent, as she is respecting him. In the same area of her speech, Thatcher uses a word choice that defines Reagan as her tone is described as reverent. Words such as “insatiable”, “confidence”, “resolve”, “time”, and “unyielding” all indicate that Thatcher also believes Reagan to be a man of unstoppable force (69). This description of Reagan makes Thatcher’s tone all the more reverent. Believing that Reagan was unstoppable, and honorable, her tone is reverent in that it provides respect for Reagan. This makes Thatcher’s message much more respectable, as her tone indicates that she admires Reagan’s characters.

Thatcher also incorporates symbolism in her speech. The most prominent is the “Evil Empire” (15). The Evil Empire is Thatcher’s way of symbolizing the Soviet Russians (U.S.S.R). As the U.S.S.R is symbolic of evil, Reagan is then symbolized as the good to do battle with the evil. As the audience listens, they now see Thatcher speaking of Reagan as a symbol of hope, good, and justice. This convinces the audience of Thatcher’s message: Reagan was a symbol of good; therefore, he deserves the honor of Thatcher’s eulogy.

Without rhetorical strategies, Thatcher’s message would have been severely weakened, and lack gravitas. Thus, her message of a eulogy would have never achieved its goal: honoring Reagan as a respectable leader. Her usage of ethos gave credibility to show her message is genuine. She utilized tone to prove her message was purposeful. And she used symbolism to finally conclude her eulogy is truly symbolic of Reagan’s service to his nation: an undying symbol of hope. (564 words)

Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for the score of 6 but provide more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.

Sample H Score 8

The purpose of Margaret Thatcher’s eulogy of former president Ronald Reagan was to emphasize his good nature as well as his good policy, and to comfort the American people with the words of respect. To make his point clear, she uses a variety of tactics, such as metaphor, contrast, and parallel structure. Each of these shows a deep respect and reverence, and puts the actions of Reagan in perspective with the disorder of the world at that time.

Thatcher uses metaphors in her eulogy to create a truly reverent, idealized view of Reagan. She says, “He sought to mend America’s wounded spirit, to restore the strength of the free world.” This approach focuses on his idealist goals as opposed to his policies. By using the metaphor, she makes Reagan appear even more powerful, yet benevolent. By focusing on the policies instead of the actions, she attempts to erase any negative image of Reagan from people’s minds. By comparing him to a sort of doctor by using the word “mend,” Thatcher expresses the idea of his

importance to the country in a time of need. The use of the metaphor expresses the idea of Reagan instead of the man himself, and makes him seem almost more than human.

Thatcher also uses many examples of parallelism, which serve to continually build up the reputation of Ronald Reagan. For example, in the twelfth paragraph, she repeats the phrase “when . . . they . . .”, which expresses the idea that Reagan could be trusted to act appropriately, no matter what situation he faced. The listing of the problems faced in the first clause of each sentence shows the difficulty of the time, and the listing of the reactions in the second clause of each sentence shows the reliability of the response. This depicts Reagan as a firm and trusted leader, and serves to make the audience of the eulogy focus on their trust of the man they had lost.

Finally, Margaret Thatcher uses a great deal of contrast to reflect the strength of Reagan’s actions in the light of the difficult political atmosphere he faced during his time in office. In the fourth through sixth paragraphs, she repeats the idea of “others . . . He . . .” For example, she says, “Others – saw only limits – to growth. He transformed a stagnant economy into an engine of opportunity.” The contrast between the public pessimism and the actions taken by the president makes his optimistic approach seem even more impressive and admirable. If she had not included the contrast with popular opinion at the time, the actions of the president would have seemed more ordinary. She does this throughout the eulogy, for example contrasting the “darkness” of the time with Reagan’s “lightness” of spirit. She uses this contrast to contextualize Reagan’s actions in a reverent light. (476 words)

Essays earning a score of 8 **effectively** analyze* the rhetorical strategies that Thatcher uses to convey her message. They develop their analysis with evidence and explanations that are appropriate and convincing, referring to the passage explicitly or implicitly. The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

Sample I Score 9

In her eulogy in 2004, Margaret Thatcher commemorates the life of Ronald Reagan. She speaks to both the American and English people of the dead former president in order to highlight his honor and leadership through emotional, authoritative appeals, and parallelism.

Using pathos, the appeal to emotion, Thatcher tugs at the heart of her audience to bring respect and sadness at the loss of Reagan. Thatcher uses powerful diction to describe Reagan, such as “cheerful and invigorating presence”, and “freshness and optimism”. These descriptions of his policy and character contribute to the legacy Thatcher attaches to Reagan’s memory. She uses juxtaposition of powerful diction by describing how Reagan’s jokes after an assassination attempt, “were evidence that in the aftermath of terror and in the midst of hysteria one great heart at least remained sane and jocular”. The contrast of “terror” and “hysteria” with “sane and jocular” contributes to the words the audience will forever remember Reagan by, as the opposite of terror and hysteria. Then choices of wording by Thatcher create emotional constructs of character in the audience to strengthen their fondness of Reagan and their grief at his passing through diction and juxtaposition.

Thatcher also uses ethos, the appeal to authority, to cement her argument of Reagan’s good character and the tragedy that was his death. In her opening sentence, Thatcher asserts, “We have lost a great president, a great American, and a great man, and I have lost a dear “friend.” This inclusion of anaphora, the repetition of “great” emphasizes Reagan’s character, but also creates a noticeable contrast to the last phrase, which characterizes Reagan as Thatcher’s “dear friend”. By calling Reagan “dear” rather than “great” when referring to her own relationship with

the former President, Thatcher isolates herself from the rest of the audience as an authority above them. This authority is found again later when Thatcher declares, "As Prime Minister, I worked closely with Ronald Reagan . . ." There, Thatcher establishes herself as an authority of the state, Prime Minister, to increase credibility of her argument as more than an admirer of Reagan, but as a close, knowing partner in running countries. Thatcher's establishment of herself as an authority both as Reagan's "dear friend" and compatriot as Prime Minister add to the authority of her eulogy and the credibility she has as someone who truly is sincere in her assessment of Reagan as a decisive leader and optimistic man who will be missed.

Thatcher also summarizes Reagan's accomplishments and goals in order to remind the world of his presidency's effectiveness. Thatcher says Reagan, "sought to mend America's wounded spirit, to restore the strength of the free world, and to free the slaves of communism". By using the phrasing "to mend," "to restore," and "to free", Thatcher establishes Reagan as a man of action and healing. These qualities amplify the audience's approval of Reagan and increase their grief. The parallel structure of the infinitives highlights Reagan's actions and wishes toward benefitting the audience's opinion of him. Also in the sentence includes more pathos such as "wounded spirit" and "slaves of communism". These sad characters are saved by Reagan through his mending and freeing to further declare Reagan as an effective president and great man.

By using her position as Prime Minister to appeal to authority, including diction to appeal to emotion, and syntactical structure to parallel Reagan's actions to his mending character, Thatcher amplifies the grief of losing a former President by a hundred fold in the hearts of her audience. She cements Reagan's legacy as a true hero and leader and left her audience in awe and grief. (603 words)

Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for the score of 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in their development, or impressive in their control of language.