

Public Speaking ____

Name _____

Hour ____

Date _____

Critical Listening

This assignment is to practice searching for the critical listening elements while you listen to (or watch) a speech or presentation. Choose quotes that stand out to you because you are particularly interested in them—this could be because of how it sounds or makes you feel, if it confuses or puzzles you, or reminds you of something, etc.

As you listen to the speaker, find examples of the following critical listening elements. You need to find one specific example for each element of critical listening. In analyzing these quotations, first **determine the significant** words, sentence structures, details, images, or moods from the quote. Then, think of something these significant features might **suggest about the meaning** of the quote (*This suggests that...*). Finally, **explain the implications or significance** of this suggestion (*This is important because...*). Think of this part as answering someone who asks, "So what?"

Diction

Quote:	Breakdown of Significant words/phrases:
The use of these words/phrases suggests that...	
So what?	

Syntax

Quote:	What is significant about the grammar/punctuation/phrasing?
The use of this significant feature suggests that...	
Why is that important?	

Detail

Quote:	Breakdown of Significant details:
The use of these particular details suggests that...	
This is important because...	

Imagery

Quote:	Breakdown of Significant images:
The use of these images suggests that...	
What is the purpose for using these images? (Hint: it's not to "paint a picture").	

Tone

Quote:	What works to create this tone? What helps you understand that it is supposed to sound this way?
The use of this tone suggests that...	
This is important because...	

Claims

What claim(s) does the author make?	What facts and examples support the(se) claim(s)?
How does the author connect the evidence to the claims?	
How does the evidence help the author argue his/her point?	

Ideology

What is the author's stance or belief?	What is present in the text that helps you determine what the author believes?
What is the author omitting from his/her message? What is he or she not saying? Why might this be?	
Who is the audience for this piece of writing? How can you tell?	
What does the author hope the audience will understand, after reading this piece?	

DELIVERY

Elements of the speaker's delivery:	The <i>delivery style</i> could be described as:
The <i>style</i> of the speaker's delivery suggests that...	
What was the effect on the audience of this delivery style?	

VISUAL AIDS

Explanation of Visual Aids used:	<i>How</i> were these aids used?
The use of these visual aids was successful because...	
This made an impact on the audience by...	

