

EIGHTH GRADE ENGLISH: UNLOCKING THE POWER OF EMOTIONAL APPEALS

Our eighth-grade English students have been exploring the art—and impact—of persuasive communication by studying emotional appeals: pathos (emotion), ethos (credibility), and logos (logic). These tools help speakers connect with their audience in meaningful ways, and our students have been discovering just how powerful well-chosen words can be.

To put their learning into action, students selected a famous speech and analyzed it for each type of appeal. They didn't just identify examples—they explained why a particular line reflected pathos, ethos, or logos, and how it helped strengthen the speaker's message. This emphasis on explanation and evaluation reflects our CALLED value of Analytical Action, as students broke down complex rhetoric and examined its real impact.

The range of speeches selected was as diverse as it was inspiring: President George W. Bush's 9/11 address, Malala Yousafzai's 16th birthday speech to the U.N., Michael Jordan's Basketball Hall of Fame induction speech, and powerful messages from Princess Diana and Muhammad Ali. Each student brought their own interests and background knowledge into the project, creating thoughtful and passionate analyses.

This project also highlighted the CALLED value of Challenging Case Studies, as students wrestled with speeches that shaped history, shifted public opinion, and moved global audiences. By delving into these iconic moments, they gained a deeper understanding of how leaders use emotion, logic, and credibility to unite people, inspire courage, and spark change.

Our eighth graders walked away with a renewed appreciation for the power of language—and the confidence to use their own voices with clarity, conviction, and purpose.

