

Evan Vicidomini

Teacher

CAS 100A

7 October 2022

Review of Barack Obama's Afghanistan Speech

In 2010, former President Barack Obama gave a speech to the troops in Afghanistan thanking them for their service in the country. This was a long speech detailing how proud the president and the United States people are proud of the soldiers that served in Afghanistan. The speech was very well rehearsed using the five canons of rhetoric. These include invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. In this speech, invention was decent, describing efforts of Afghan and American soldiers and facts about 9/11. Arrangement was strong, thanking the soldiers and talking about previous tragedies and strengthening from them. Style was average, with common and understandable language. Memory was very good, and it looked well rehearsed. Delivery was outstanding, with great body language and loud verbal delivery. It was a very important speech that many do not know about.

The invention part of the speech included ideas about the efforts of American soldiers in Afghanistan and the events that took place on 9/11. The ideas could have a little more detail because I feel as though there were not any specific battles or events that were described in the speech that took place in Afghanistan or other neighboring countries. There were no sources used or cited in the speech also. The specific details I feel were lacking and could be more specific.

The arrangement of the speech thanked the United States soldiers and Afghan soldiers fighting in Afghanistan, then talking about the struggles of the Afghan people, talking about 9/11, and then ending the speech thanking the soldiers again, describing how confident that the

United States soliders will come on top victorious. One line in the beginning includes “we also salute the members of the Afghan National Army who are fighting alongside all of you. They’re risking their lives to protect their country.” (Obama, March 28, 2010). He also goes to describe the pain of the United States during 9/11 and the struggle of the people of Afghanistan. This shows how they were working together and creating peace and not violence. This arrangement is one of the strongest points in the speech.

The style was average in this speech, with the use of commonly used words to relate to the people. There was nothing here that stood out and it did not have the most memorable details. However, the speech was engaging and many of the people listening to the speech were very focused and interested on what the former president had to say.

The memory for the speech was very good, with very few stutters and mistakes. There were some notes there were written down when the former president went to give this speech. However, he seemed confident and focused in the speech. This was one of the strongest parts in this speech.

The delivery of the speech was outstanding, showing a very strong ability to communicate. There were very few mistakes in the speech, and it was delivered in a loud and repetitive tone. This was the strongest canon in this speech. The former president is truly an amazing speaker. Some lines were improvised, like “That’s why you’re here today. That’s what you represent.” (Obama, March 28, 2010). Otherwise, it was played off very well.

In conclusion, this was a great speech. There was not much when it came to style and invention, but for the arrangement of ideas, the memory, and delivery, there was an outstanding performance of public speaking. This speech really captured the audience’s attention.

Works Cited

Obama, Barack. "American Rhetoric: Barack Obama - Speech to Troops in Afghanistan." , 28 Mar.2010,
www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/barackobama/barackobamatroopsafghanistan.htm.
Accessed 9 Oct. 2022.