

Introductions

Throughout the world many people have used their words to speak out and share their beliefs. They use rhetorical devices such as imagery, ethos, logos, and rhetorical questions in order to defend their position or challenge an opponent. In Jonathan Edwards sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God", he uses vivid imagery and fear to appeal to his audiences emotions. In Patrick Henry's "Speech to the Virginia Convention", he uses a lot of rhetorical questions to appeal to his audiences logic.

Throughout America's history men and women have used their words to fight battles, communicate world views, and change the course of nations. Rhetorical devices such as imagery appeals to reason, and rhetorical questions are the weapons used to defend a position or challenge an opponent. In his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" Jonathan Edwards uses imagery to appeal to his congregation's emotion in order to convince them to give their hearts to God. On the contrary, in "Speech to the Virginia Convention", Patrick Henry appeals to the colonists' reason using rhetorical questions, hoping to convince them that war with Britain was unavoidable. Though each speaker used different tools to communicate his purpose both are effective in persuading his audience to agree with his point of view.

When making a speech to try to convince an audience to believe in a certain idea many people use literary devices to help get their message across. In Jonathan Edwards' sermon "Sinners in the hands of an Angry God", Edwards heavily uses imagery and figures of speech to make his audience fearful of an angered God. "Speech to the Virginia Convention" by Patrick Henry uses rhetorical devices to push a call to war against Britain for their independence. The use of these devices is to make the reader believe in the ideas as strongly as the writer does.