

Sample Outline for Speech Rhetoric Analysis: Lou Gehrig's 1939 Speech

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Please complete your outline for your speech according to the model on page two. Here are some explicit instructions for completing your outline:

- Be sure that your heading and title match the example on page two. Visit Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL) for details: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- You should provide your research about your speech (at least two sources) throughout your essay; most notably, you'll probably include it in the introduction.
- Include MLA Works Cited entries for your sources on a separate page.. You can use <http://www.easybib.com/> to create these, but you'll also need in-text citations (the "C" in ACE for quotes).

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eble.

Remember: The more work you do on this outline, the more smoothly your paper writing will go.

This outline is worth 40 points for your writing grade.

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Outline: Analysis of Lou Gehrig's 1939 "Luckiest Man" Speech

I. Introduction

- a. Hook: Quote from ESPN article about Gehrig speech: ESPN staff writer Steve Wulf shares the background of Yankee great Lou Gehrig's funeral, where "his Episcopal priest said there would be no eulogy: 'We need none because we all knew him'" (Wulf).
- b. Background Information: Paraphrase opening background paragraphs for Gehrig's speech found at <http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/gehrig.htm>
- c. Background Information: Quote about baseball and the Great Depression: In an article comparing baseball in America's most recent recession with the sport during the Great Depression, Ken Belson shares the words of 88 year-old baseball fan Ray Robinson, who says "Like many other recreational activities, people did go to the ballpark to get away from the economic horrors of empty wallets and ice boxes" (Belson).
- d. Thesis: To convince his audience that he's "the luckiest man on the face of the earth," Lou Gehrig shares examples from his life and uses repetition to appeal to logos, presents himself as a common man to build his ethos, and speaks in a grateful tone to appeal to pathos.

II. Logos in Gehrig's Speech

- a. Topic Sentence: Gehrig uses examples from all parts of his life and repetition to present evidence for his claim that he's fortunate despite his poor fortune.
- b. Example #1: Gehrig shows his claim in his last sentence: "So I close in saying that I might have had a tough break - but I have an awful lot to live for!"

- c. Example #2: Gehrig presents examples from many parts in his life to show how he's been lucky: working with the "grand men" on and off the field in the Yankees organization, playing against and being honored by his rival New York Giants, and having a loving family.
- d. Example #3: To emphasize this luck, Gehrig also repeats a few phrases, particularly "Sure, I'm lucky" and "When you have..."

III. Ethos in Gehrig's Speech

- a. Topic Sentence: To appeal to the people at the ballpark who were suffering through the Depression, Gehrig presents himself as a common man, even though he's a hero to baseball fans.
- b. Example #1: He shares his background when he says that he has seventeen years of experience.
- c. Example #2: He doesn't only share examples from being a baseball player; he also discusses his mother-in-law, parents, and wife. This puts him on the level of the audience.
- d. Example #3: In asking rhetorical questions, Gehrig shows his gratitude and humility—qualities of common men. He says, "Look at these grand men. Which of you wouldn't consider it the highlight of his career to associate with them for even one day?"

IV. Pathos in Gehrig's Speech

- a. Topic Sentence: This same humility also helps Gehrig appeal to his audience's emotions, as he speaks in a grateful tone.
- b. Example #1: In speaking about his disease, Gehrig only says that he's had a "bad," "tough" break. He only focuses on the positives in his life, which shows gratitude.

- c. Example #2: Gehrig also directly addresses the fans; he says, “I have been in ballparks for seventeen years and have never received anything but kindness and encouragement from you fans.”
- d. Example #3: Throughout his speech, Gehrig uses numerous words that show his gratitude to the various people in his life: “wonderful,” “lucky,” “blessing,” “courage,” “encouragement,” and “tower of strength.”

V. Conclusion

- a. Summary: Gehrig conveys his message eloquently and memorably by presenting examples from his own life to demonstrate his luck. He speaks to a Depression-era audience with great humility and gratitude, presenting himself as one of them.
- b. Fact about importance of this speech: Gehrig’s speech not only inspired people during the Depression, but also inspired Sam Wood’s film about the Yankee great, *The Pride of the Yankees*.
- c. Connection to modern speeches / sports: This speech, which “has been called baseball's Gettysburg Address” (Wulf), contrasts greatly with modern sports figures who often only seek to increase their own bankrolls and esteem.

Works Cited

Belson, Ken. "Apples for a Nickel, and Plenty of Empty Seats." *The New York Times Baseball. The New York Times*. 6 January 2009. Web. 23 October 2014.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/07/sports/baseball/07depression.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Gehrig, Lou. "Farewell to Yankees Fans." *The History Place Great Speeches Collection*. The History Place. Web. 23 October 2014. <http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/gehrig.htm>

Wulf, Steve. "'An awful lot to live for': Lou Gehrig's farewell speech at Yankee Stadium on its 75th anniversary." *ESPN MLB*. ESPN. 4 July 2014. Web. 23 October 2014.

http://espn.go.com/mlb/story/_/id/11159148/mlb-lou-gehrig-farewell-speech-75-years-later