

Line-By-Line Guiding Questions For Close Reading and Rhetorical Analysis of Remarks by President Biden on the Collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge

Excerpted Lines	Guiding Questions	Your Response
"Hello, folks. Sorry to keep you waiting. I was waiting to talk to the last member of the delegation in the region."	<p>What is the purpose of the speaker's apology and explanation in these lines?</p> <p>How does the speaker establish a connection with the audience in these lines?</p>	
"Good afternoon. Before I leave for North Carolina, which I'm going to do in a few minutes, I want to speak briefly about the terrible incident and accident that happened in Baltimore this morning."	<p>Why does the speaker mention their imminent departure to North Carolina before discussing the incident?</p> <p>How does the speaker use the word "terrible" to convey their emotions about the incident?</p> <p>What effect does the use of the word "incident" instead of "bridge collapse" have on the audience?</p>	
"At about 1:30, a container ship struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which I've been over many, many times commuting from the state of Delaware either on a train or by car."	<p>How does the speaker's personal experience with the bridge contribute to their rhetorical appeal?</p> <p>How does the speaker's use of the phrase "many, many times" impact the audience's perception of the bridge collapse?</p>	
"And the bridge collapsed, sending several people and vehicles into the water — into the river."	<p>How does the speaker's use of repetition in this sentence emphasize the severity of the incident?</p> <p>What effect does the use of the word "sending" have on the audience's understanding of the bridge collapse?</p>	
"And multiple U.S. Coast Guard units, which are stationed very nearby, thank God, were immediately deployed, along with local emergency personnel."	<p>How does the speaker's mention of the Coast Guard and local emergency personnel contribute to their argument?</p> <p>What purpose does the speaker's expression of gratitude serve in these lines?</p>	
"Officials at the scene estimate eight people were unaccounted for still — not still, were unaccounted for. That number might change. Two have been rescued — one without injury, one in critical condition. And the search-and-rescue operation is continuing for all those remaining as we speak."	<p>How does the speaker use repetition in these lines to convey important details and maintain the audience's attention?</p> <p>What effect does the speaker's use of the phrase "as we speak" have on the urgency of the situation?</p> <p>How does the speaker's mention of the number of people unaccounted for impact the audience emotionally?</p>	

<p>"I told them we're going to send all the federal resources they need as we respond to this emergency, and I mean all the federal resources. And we're going to rebuild that port together."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's emphasis on "all the federal resources" strengthen their commitment to the emergency response?</p> <p>How does the speaker's mention of rebuilding the port contribute to their overall message?</p> <p>What effect does the speaker's use of the word "together" have on the audience's perception of the situation?</p>	
<p>"Everything so far indicates that this was a terrible accident. At this time, we have no other indication — no other reason to believe there was any intentional act here."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's use of the word "terrible" contribute to their rhetorical appeal?</p> <p>How does the speaker's emphasis on the lack of intentional act affect the audience's perception of the incident?</p> <p>What purpose does the speaker's emphasis on "no other reason" serve in these lines?</p>	
<p>"Personnel on board the ship were able to alert the Maryland Department of Transportation that they had lost control of their vessel, as you all know and have reported. As a result, local authorities were able to close the bridge to traffic before the bridge was struck, which undoubtedly saved lives."</p>	<p>How does the speaker use the phrase "as you all know and have reported" to establish a connection with the audience and acknowledge their knowledge?</p> <p>How does the speaker's mention of the bridge being closed before the impact contribute to their argument?</p> <p>What effect does the speaker's use of the word "undoubtedly" have on the audience's perception of the bridge closure?</p>	
<p>"And our prayers are with everyone involved in this terrible accident and all the families, especially those waiting for the news of their loved one right now. I know every minute in that circumstance feels like a lifetime. You just don't know. It's just terrible."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's use of the word "prayers" appeal to the audience's emotions?</p> <p>What purpose does the speaker's repetition of the word "terrible" serve in these lines?</p> <p>How does the speaker's acknowledgment of the uncertainty faced by families impact the audience's emotions?</p>	
<p>"We're incredibly grateful for the brave rescuers who immediately rushed to the scene."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's expression of gratitude contribute to their overall message?</p> <p>How does the speaker's use of the word "immediately" impact the audience's perception of the rescuers' actions?</p>	

<p>"And to the people of Baltimore, I want to say: We're with you. We're going to stay with you as long as it takes. And like the governor said, you're Maryland tough, you're Baltimore strong, and we're going to get through this together. And I promise: We're not leaving."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's repetition of the phrase "we're with you" strengthen their message of support?</p> <p>What effect does the speaker's use of the phrases "Maryland tough" and "Baltimore strong" have on the audience's perception of resilience?</p> <p>How does the speaker's promise contribute to their overall argument?</p>	
<p>"Here's what's happening now. The search-and-rescue operation is our top priority. Ship traffic in the Port of Baltimore has been suspended until further notice. And we'll need to clear that channel before the ship traffic can resume. The Army Corps of Engineers is on the spot and is going to help lead this effort to clear the channel."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's mention of the search-and-rescue operation contribute to their overall message?</p> <p>How does the speaker's mention of the Army Corps of Engineers impact the audience's perception of the response efforts?</p> <p>What effect does the speaker's use of the phrase "on the spot" have on the audience's perception of the situation?</p>	
<p>"The Port of Baltimore is one of the nation's largest shipping hubs. And I've been there a number of times as a senator and as a vice president. It handled a record amount of cargo last year. It's also the top port in America for both imports and exports of automobiles and light trucks. Around 850,000 vehicles go through that port every single year, and we're going to get it up and running again as soon as possible."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's personal experience with the Port of Baltimore enhance their credibility in discussing its importance?</p> <p>How does the speaker's mention of the record amount of cargo and vehicle traffic impact the audience's perception of the port's significance?</p> <p>What purpose does the speaker's emphasis on getting the port up and running serve in these lines?</p>	
<p>"Fifteen thousand jobs depend on that port. And we're going to do everything we can to protect those jobs and help those workers."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's mention of the number of jobs impacted by the port contribute to their argument?</p> <p>How does the speaker's use of the phrase "do everything we can" appeal to the audience's emotions?</p> <p>What effect does the speaker's use of the word "protect" have on the audience's perception of the situation?</p>	

<p>"The bridge is also critical to — for travel, not just for Baltimore but for the Northeast Corridor. Over 30,000 vehicles cross the Francis Scott Key Bridge on a daily basis."</p>	<p>How does the speaker's mention of the bridge's significance for travel appeal to the audience's concerns?</p> <p>How does the speaker's mention of the number of daily vehicle crossings impact the audience's perception of the bridge's importance?</p> <p>What purpose does the speaker's emphasis on the Northeast Corridor serve in these lines?</p>	
<p>"It's virtually the— well, one of the most important elements for the economy in the Northeast and the quality of life."</p>	<p>How does President Biden emphasize the significance of the bridge collapse?</p>	
<p>"My Transportation Secretary is there now. As I told Governor Moore, I've directed my team to move heaven and earth to reopen the port and rebuild the bridge as soon as hu- — humanly possible."</p>	<p>What rhetorical device does President Biden use to emphasize the urgency of the situation?</p>	
<p>"And we're going to work hand in hand with the support of Maryland — to support Maryland, whatever they ask for."</p>	<p>How does President Biden emphasize his commitment to helping Maryland?</p>	

<p>"It's my intention that the federal government will pay for the entire cost of reconstructing that bridge, and I expect to — the Congress to support my effort."</p>	<p>How does President Biden appeal to Congress and express his determination to fund the bridge reconstruction?</p>	
<p>"This is going to take some time. And the people of Baltimore can count on us, though, to stick with them at every step of the way until the port is reopened and the bridge is rebuilt."</p>	<p>How does President Biden reassure the people of Baltimore about the government's commitment to the project?</p>	
<p>"You know, we're not leaving until this job gets done — not leaving until then."</p>	<p>What rhetorical device does President Biden use to emphasize his dedication to completing the job?</p>	
<p>"So, I just want to say God bless everybody who — everyone harmed this morning and their families. And may God bless the first responders, who — many of whom are risking their lives."</p>	<p>How does President Biden express his empathy and gratitude towards those affected by the bridge collapse?</p>	