



## Analyzing Barack Obama's Speech on the 50th Anniversary of Selma (2015)

### Introduction:

In 2015, President Barack Obama spoke at the 50th anniversary of the Selma marches, honoring the civil rights movement while urging Americans to continue the fight for justice. Addressing both history and the present, Obama employs historical allusions, inclusive diction, and appeals to national identity to inspire collective progress.

### Body Paragraph:

Obama's use of **historical allusion** grounds his speech in shared memory. Referring to Selma as "sacred ground," he invokes the courage of ordinary citizens who risked their lives for voting rights. This reminder situates the current audience in a continuum of struggle, inspiring them to see themselves as heirs to that legacy.

He also emphasizes **inclusive diction**, using pronouns like "we" and "our" to erase divisions between past and present, leaders and citizens. By saying, "*We honor those who walked so we could run,*" Obama connects his audience directly to history's progress. This inclusive language fosters unity and strengthens his call to action.

### Conclusion:



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Through historical allusions, inclusive diction, and appeals to national identity, Obama honors Selma's legacy while reinforcing the urgency of continued civic engagement. His speech illustrates how rhetoric can bridge past and present to shape the future.

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