**RHETORICAL ANALYSIS**

**Patrick Henry’s Speech at the Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775**

**THINKING ABOUT THE BIG PICTURE…**

Consider the following prompt for a timed writing:

Read the following speech delivered by Patrick Henry at the Virginia Convention in 1775. Then write a well-organized essay in which you discuss the rhetorical strategies Henry employs to achieve his purpose for addressing those in attendance.

**BRAINSTORMING and PREWRITING…**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BIG** question? | little question? |
| **MEANING--WHAT / WHY:** What is Henry’s purpose?  ? | **METHOD-HOW:** How does he achieve his purpose?  ? |
| Patrick Henry may seek to… | Henry employs… (add textual evidence) |

**WRITING YOUR THESIS STATEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE ESSAY**

*As you think of writing the essay, you will need a clear and concise thesis statement articulating the purpose for the whole passage. Writing this statement is often challenging because of the difficulty of including so many elements into one sentence. You will likely need to write a complex or compound-complex sentence. As you construct this sentence, you should make sure the independent, or main clause refers to the purpose and the subordinate clause refers to author’s technique [this keeps the BIG question BIG].*

*Consider the following template:*

**In his speech at the Virginia convention, Patrick Henry** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [identify purpose--MEANING] **by/through** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [METHODS specific reference to his rhetorical strategies].