

First Last

Teacher Name

ENG 4U

Date

Rhetorical Analysis Essay ENG 4U

Speech Analysis Stephen Lewis Eulogy for Jack Layton

When Jack Layton tragically passed away, he left a void—not just for his family and close friends, but for the entire Canadian parliamentary system. Considering the magnitude of Layton’s life—he was, after all, the leader of official government opposition—it was fitting that an appropriate candidate be selected to deliver Layton’s eulogy. That person was Stephen Lewis, ex NDP provincial leader, close friend of the Layton family, and the UN ambassador to Africa. Lewis’ eulogy—delivered to an assembly of some of the most distinguished dignitaries in Canadian politics—persuaded his audience that this message should be taken seriously. Using appeals of ethos, logos, and pathos Lewis convinces his audience that Jack’s goal for Canada—to become a more “generous” Canada—must be realized.

Before Lewis gets to the thrust of his argument, he must necessarily establish his own credibility; that is, his appeal to ethos. Lewis immediately establishes his credibility by claiming that “never in our collective lifetime have we seen such an outpouring...from everyone corner of the country.” This claim—difficult to prove, but impossible to disprove—is one that suggests that Lewis has information that they do not. It immediately establishes him as a figure that is knowledgeable and who must be taken very seriously. Lewis then appeals to his ethos by telling personal anecdotes about his close relationship with the Layton family. He tells the audience that he “met with

[Layton's] family a few hours after Jack died," thereby making the audience realize that Lewis is trustworthy enough to be in the family's close circle. He also establishes his credibility by referring personally to conversations he had with Layton's partner, Olivia, again showing that he can be trusted. Similarly, Layton becomes believable when he refers to his own past experience as the NDP leader. "As [he would] know," the position of a political party is difficult and strenuous. By telling his audience that he could handle this position, he furthermore establishes his reliability.

End of Student Sample.