Name MODEL

Text Truth, Chisholm and Williams

Truth's, Chisholm's, and Williams' arguments each draws more heavily on a different rhetorical strategy—emotion, logic, and ethics—to persuade their audiences.

Sojourner Truth's passionate speech on women's right to vote invokes emotion as she repeats over and over again, "And ain't I a woman?" (7). She also establishes herself as a woman of strong faith, appealing to her audience's religious preferences while earning the support of other women potentially in the audience when she remembers her children: "I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me!" (10-12). Finally, she respects her audience, earning their respect back, as she states, "Obliged to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say" (23).

Shirley Chisholm uses logic and a series of impressive statistics and numbers to support her argument for equal rights in the workplace. She compares the population numbers of men and women, and emphasizes the "outrageous" (30) fact that "women occupy only 2 percent of the managerial positions" (23-24). She lists the names of our highest offices as having "no women…on the AFL-CIO council or Supreme Court. In Congress, we are down to one Senator and 10 Representatives" (25-28). She then reveals her purpose:
"It is for this reason that I wish to introduce today a proposal that has been before every Congress for the last 40 years and that sooner or later must become part of the basic law of the land - the Equal Rights Amendment" (41-43).

Finally, Venus Williams argues that "equality is too important a principle to give up on" and challenges the prestigious Wimbledon on their ethical practices (79). She reveals that "the winner of the ladies' singles receives £30,000 less than the men's winner" (28-29). She batters the All England Club and Wimbledon for what she sees as "treating women as second class" (69). She shares what appear to be private conversations held with the All England Club and the French Open, and divulges their responses to her demand for equal pay: "they are firmly in the inequality for women camp" (50-51). She appeals to her audience's moral and ethical principles, and its sense of right and wrong.

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