

## ComS 100B Options for Choosing a Text for First Study

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Read through the options for your first study. Take a look at the texts to see which of them most grabs your interest. You will soon select one to treat for your first study. "Choose well, Grasshopper."

1. President Obama's speech, "A More Perfect Union," addressing racism in America.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/03/18/obama-race-speech-read-th\\_n\\_92077.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/03/18/obama-race-speech-read-th_n_92077.html)

The challenge of this speech is parsing out the argument Obama makes. Is it appropriate or too complicated for his audience?

2. Barbara Jordan's keynote speech to the Democratic National Convention in 1978.

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/barbarajordan1976dnc.html> NOTE: the video is a segment of her speech, not the entire speech; you should use it to get a sense of her style. **You need to treat the transcript as the speech record used for your study.**

(I recommend you look at President Obama's speech to the DNC 30 years later at:

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/convention2004/barackobama2004dnc.htm> You could do an analog study, or ignore Obama's address completely.)

3. Malala Yousafzai's speech to the United Nations on 12 July 2013, the date of her 16th birthday and "Malala Day" at the UN. Ms. Yousafzai is a 16 year-old Afghani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taliban for attending school. She recovered and has become a spokeswoman for women's rights in Afghanistan and globally. This is an interesting speech to study because of the effects of context, the speaker as person/survivor on a speech of minimal content. The rhetorical event is complex in spite of what might seem at first to be a simple speech, not much different from a commencement speech.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rNhZu3ttIU>

Transcription of the speech [Click here](#)

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4. Hillary Clinton's remarks to the U.N. 4th World Conference on Women Plenary Session Delivered, 5 September 1995, Beijing, China

This is an interesting piece given the context of the speech—the audience, the political and economic relationship between the US and China at the time, etc. Does it presage Clinton's diplomatic approach?

Speech text: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/hillaryclintonbeijingspeech.htm>

Audio recording-entire

speech <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/mp3clips/politicalspeeches/hillaryclintonunfourthworldconference.mp3>

Video excerpt

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/hillaryclintonbeijingspeech.htm> (NOTE: the video is a segment of her speech, not the entire speech; you should use it to get a sense of her style. **You need to treat the transcript as the speech record used for your study.**)