**SPEECH IN THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION – PATRICK HENRY**

**1. Evaluate Appeals** How does Henry convince his audience that the **decisive**

**moment** to fight is at hand? In a chart, summarize his reasons. Then, beside each, note whether he appeals mainly to logic or emotion. **WHICH REASONS ARE STRONGEST EXPLAIN (is a discussion question).**

**2. Make Judgments About Rhetorical Devices** Review the five rhetorical devices discussed in class**. Rhetorical question** – question to which no answer is expected (But when shall we be stronger?) **Antithesis** expresses contrasting ideas in parallel grammatical structures (Give me liberty, or give me death!) **Repetition** is the recurrent of words, phrases or lines. (Let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come**!) Parallelism** is a kind of repetition in which words or phrases in the same grammatical form connect ideas (Is life so dear, or peace so sweet…) **Biblical allusions** are references to events, figures, or phrases from the Bible. In this selection, they have the rhetorical appeal of shared beliefs.

1. Cite **three** rhetorical devices, referencing the passage and what type of device it is.

2. Examine which device occurs most **frequently** in Henry’s speech?

3. Do you think that rhetorical devices are an effective way to

communicate, or do you find them manipulative? Cite examples from the text to support your answer.

3. **Discern Grammar and Style Vary Sentence types**: Henry varies his style of sentences using the four basic types – find an example of each sentence type– **declarative**, (statement of fact, desire, intent, or feeling and ends with period) **interrogative,** (question, ends with question mark) **imperative**, (which gives a command and sometimes end with an exclamation point) and **exclamatory** (which expresses strong emotions and always ends with an exclamation point).

**Text Criticism**

**3.. Different Perspectives** Imagine that the following people heard Henry’s

speech from the visitor’s gallery. How might each have reacted, and why?

• the wife of one of the delegates • a clergyman • a farmer whose parents live in England • an African enslaved in the colony • a member of the Virginia militia

*When is it time to* **take action?**

Patrick Henry’s intense frustration compelled him to act. What circumstances

in your life have triggered you to make a decision or to take action? Write two-short paragraphs highlighting your decisive action.