

Elie Wiesel's "The Perils of Indifference" Speech Essay

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Elie Wiesel's "The Perils of Indifference" Speech

Elie Wiesel, a Noble Peace Prize winner and Boston University Professor, presented a speech as part of the Millennium Lecture Series at the White House on April 12, 1999. President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Clinton hosted the formal lecture series. Numerous dignitaries from a wide array of public, private and foreign office attended the event. Although [Elie Wiesel](#) designed his speech to persuade, it actually fell somewhat outside the deliberative [genre](#) category, as being more non-typical within this genre category.

The speech is unique in a way that cascades it into a genre classification considered as a hybrid deliberative genre. Wiesel produces this hybrid genre by bending or incorporating several different genres within the main speech while he attempts to persuade the audience. While the speech looks to the past, its main points focus on the future. Wiesel produces this hybrid genre by blending or fusing additional elements or traits from other genres such as forensic and epideictic. These factors coupled with a multitude of discourse elements woven within the speech such as an autobiography, historical narrative, along with the use of storytelling, tied within the confines of a jeremiad, which includes religious [rhetoric](#), culminates into an extraordinary epideictic address. This paper will analyze these elements in order to draw a distinct correlation to the hybrid deliberative

genre theory.

Wiesel's speech, persuasive in nature, was designed to educate his audience as to the violence and killing of innocent people across the globe. Wiesel spoke of acts that had taken place throughout his lifetime, from his youth, up through present day atrocities. His focu...

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...erfections presented by indifference (Matza, 2013).

Works Cited

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