**Prosopopoeia and Ad Hominem Arguments in the Cooper Union Speech**

[*http://lincolnrhetoric.weebly.com/cooper-union.html*](http://lincolnrhetoric.weebly.com/cooper-union.html)

1. Why do you think Lincoln addresses this second part of the speech to the Southerners, knowing they will not hear it and likely will not even read about it in the newspapers?

Discuss your ideas with a partner and write a couple of sentences below about what you think. Then type your sentences into the Google form on the website.

1. Write at least one similarity or difference between your interpretation and historian Harold Holzer’s interpretation of the impact of prosopopoeia.
2. List at least one benefit and one drawback of using ad hominem arguments, in general. We will add more as we discuss.

**Here is an excerpt from the speech’s second section, in which Lincoln talks directly to absent Southerners about slavery. As you listen to actor Sam Waterston read this section of the speech, follow along and underline, circle or highlight as many times as you can when Lincoln says *you* or *your. (*When he addresses the South this way, he is using ad hominem arguments.)**

And now, if they would listen - as I suppose they will not - I would address a few words to the Southern people.

I would say to them: - You consider yourselves a reasonable and a just people; and I consider that in the general qualities of reason and justice you are not inferior to any other people. Still, when you speak of us Republicans, you do so only to denounce us as reptiles, or, at the best, as no better than outlaws. You will grant a hearing to pirates or murderers, but nothing like it to "Black Republicans." In all your contentions with one another, each of you deems an unconditional condemnation of "Black Republicanism" as the first thing to be attended to. Indeed, such condemnation of us seems to be an indispensable prerequisite - license, so to speak - among you to be admitted or permitted to speak at all. Now, can you, or not, be prevailed upon to pause and to consider whether this is quite just to us, or even to yourselves? Bring forward your charges and specifications, and then be patient long enough to hear us deny or justify.

You say we are sectional. We deny it. That makes an issue; and the burden of proof is upon you. You produce your proof; and what is it? Why, that our party has no existence in your section - gets no votes in your section. The fact is substantially true; but does it prove the issue? If it does, then in case we should, without change of principle, begin to get votes in your section, we should thereby cease to be sectional. You cannot escape this conclusion; and yet, are you willing to abide by it? If you are, you will probably soon find that we have ceased to be sectional, for we shall get votes in your section this very year. You will then begin to discover, as the truth plainly is, that your proof does not touch the issue. The fact that we get no votes in your section, is a fact of your making, and not of ours. And if there be fault in that fact, that fault is primarily yours, and remains until you show that we repel you by some wrong principle or practice. If we do repel you by any wrong principle or practice, the fault is ours; but this brings you to where you ought to have started - to a discussion of the right or wrong of our principle. If our principle, put in practice, would wrong your section for the benefit of ours, or for any other object, then our principle, and we with it, are sectional, and are justly opposed and denounced as such. Meet us, then, on the question of whether our principle, put in practice, would wrong your section; and so meet it as if it were possible that something may be said on our side. Do you accept the challenge? No! Then you really believe that the principle which "our fathers who framed the Government under which we live" thought so clearly right as to adopt it, and indorse it again and again, upon their official oaths, is in fact so clearly wrong as to demand your condemnation without a moment's consideration.

1. How effective do you think Lincoln's use of such pronouns was in addressing the South? Write a couple of sentences of explanation.
2. Now, pick ONE sentence or part of a sentence in which Lincoln uses one or more "you" or "yours." Write it on your sheet, and then explain how you think the use of these words strengthened Lincoln's argument in this sentence. We will discuss!