

Urban Poverty | Annotation

	Employs a Public Voice	Advocates Civic Engagement	Argues a Position Based on Reasoning & Evidence	Employs a Structure
<p>Title: Urban Poverty</p> <p>Form: Spoken Word/Poetry</p> <p>Media: Video</p> <p>URL: https://letters2president.org/letters/8676</p>	<p>Score: 4 The writing:</p> <p>Effectively employs a rhetorical strategy, chosen to directly engaging each of the presidential candidates. By addressing each candidate by name the writing seeks to make a direct connection and begin a civic discourse. The spoken word/lyrical nature of the video adds appeal to a broad range of audiences as well, potentially reaching a more diverse and larger group of viewers than, say, an op-ed in a newspaper.</p> <p>Effectively engages the candidates through the video in which the writer looks directly into the camera and challenges their views. This choice makes the person and their concerns all the more real, someone who requires a response. <i>“Is my ethnicity distressing you...?”</i></p> <p>Effectively establishes a credible voice by referring to personal experience or observations, as it might connect to the politics of each candidate, and by the effective rhetorical strategy of repeating key words, <i>“freeze”</i> and <i>“start.”</i></p> <p>While this mode of address may, on the face of it, seem informal for addressing political candidates, its use is potentially quite savvy in that it is more shareable and spreadable in online contexts--something which public</p>	<p>Score: 4 The writing:</p> <p>Effectively raises awareness of young Black men’s experience with poverty in their neighborhoods and negative interactions with the police through repetition of <i>“Stop...Freeze...”</i>.</p> <p>Effectively advocates for investing in youth/future generations, supporting opportunity for all, regardless of race, class, or geographic locale, and diminishing violence, using a simple directive, repeated multiple times toward the end of the video—<i>“Start...make it the new ‘freeze.’...Start future legacies for our young. Start funding this ghetto so our next generation can overcome.”</i> The context allows the viewer to interpret this as a direct call to action for law enforcement officials and other change makers in positions of power and authority.</p> <p>Does not make a formal proposal for a policy change, therefore is not evaluated for</p>	<p>Score: 4 The writing:</p> <p>Uses effective reasoning to argue for relinquishing racial stereotypes and opening opportunities for young people of color to thrive (<i>“so we can overcome” “funding this ghetto so our next generation can overcome”</i>).</p> <p><i>“Welcome to the poverty cycle where everyone is the same and to... Stereotypes to criticize you How you act, how you dress, do you see those films about you?”</i></p> <p>Relies on personal experience at points throughout the video, making for an effective entry point into the issues addressed. He confronts the racial divide by asking, <i>“Why do you put us in this category? Why is my ethnicity distressing you?”</i></p> <p>Thoughtfully interprets and synthesizes personal experience in order to convince the candidates that the people he wants them to understand are working hard to escape the cycle of poverty. <i>“When you go out your way to feed your family”</i></p> <p>For the spoken word genre, incorporating alternative perspectives is not necessary.</p>	<p>Score: 4 The writing:</p> <p>Employs a structure that effectively develops the central idea that the presidential candidates need to address the intertwined issues of poverty and racism that many young people in urban community face.</p> <p>Includes a strong, purposeful opening that illustrates lived experience in urban poverty (<i>“When you go out of the way to feed your family”</i>). The video concludes with imagery about the relationship between those living in urban areas and law enforcement, arguing that we need to <i>“flip the script”</i> from <i>“freeze”</i> to one in where we consider how we can <i>“start”</i> a change, strengthening the call for action..</p> <p>Competently links ideas through the rapid repetition, central to effective spoken word poetry.</p>

	figures are increasingly looking for in their own messaging and in the content they respond to online on Twitter and elsewhere.	reasonableness and feasibility.		
--	---	---------------------------------	--	--