

## Learning Targets

- Identify and evaluate the elements of effective vocal delivery.
- Prepare a text for effective oral delivery.

## Before Reading

1. You have read speeches from the American Revolution and the Civil War. The rhetorical context was essential for analyzing the speaker's message. What kind of message would a Depression-era audience need to hear from their President?

## During Reading

2. As you listen to an audio of Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1932 First Inaugural Address, take notes about Roosevelt's style of **vocal delivery** within the speech itself. You may consider using the following symbols to designate elements of delivery, or choose your own.

- + or – volume increase or decrease
- ^ raised pitch
- ... rate increase
- # pause

3. The goal of an effective vocal delivery is to convey the proper tone for the subject and audience (rhetorical context). As you mark your text, keep in mind the tone that Roosevelt is attempting to convey.

### LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Quickwrite, Marking the Text, Close Reading, Revisiting Prior Work

### ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**Vocal delivery** refers to the way words are expressed on stage through volume, pitch, rate or speed of speech, pauses, pronunciation, and articulation.

### My Notes

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882–1945) came to power in the United States at the same time as Adolf Hitler. Both men lead countries caught in economic depressions. FDR, who was elected in 1932, is known for his New Deal, which sought to help those Americans desperately in need by restoring jobs and basic subsistence. He is the only U.S. President elected for four terms. He led the nation through World War II.

## Speech

# Excerpt from First Inaugural Address

by Franklin D. Roosevelt

I am certain that my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our people impel. This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to

# Planning the Delivery

## My Notes

### KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

Pay attention to the allusions in the text that Roosevelt uses for rhetorical effect. What is the effect?

convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.

In such a spirit on my part and on yours we face our common difficulties. They concern, thank God, only material things. Values have shrunk to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone.

More important, a host of unemployed citizens face the grim problem of existence and an equally great number toil with little return. Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment.

Yet our distress comes from no failure of substance. We are stricken by no plague of locusts. Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for. Nature still offers her bounty and human efforts have multiplied it. Plenty is at our doorstep, but a generous use of it languishes<sup>1</sup> in the very sight of the supply. Primarily this is because the rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed, through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence, have admitted their failure, and abdicated. Practices of the unscrupulous money changers stand indicted in the court of public opinion, rejected by the hearts and minds of men.

True they have tried, but their efforts have been cast in the pattern of an outworn tradition. Faced by failure of credit they have proposed only the lending of more money. Stripped of the lure of profit by which to induce our people to follow their false leadership, they have resorted to exhortations, pleading tearfully for restored confidence. They know only the rules of a generation of self-seekers. They have no vision, and when there is no vision the people perish.

The money changers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization. We may now restore that temple to the ancient truths. The measure of the restoration lies in the extent to which we apply social values more noble than mere monetary profit.

Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort. The joy and moral stimulation of work no longer must be forgotten in the mad chase of evanescent<sup>2</sup> profits. These dark days will be worth all they cost us if they teach us that our true destiny is not to be ministered unto but to minister to ourselves and to our fellow men.

<sup>1</sup> **languishes (v.):** weakens or declines

<sup>2</sup> **evanescent (adj.):** fleeting or short-lived

