Kourtney Landis

English 203

Reading Response 5

1. Post needed to know some background information on historical African American leaders. Obama wanted to be seen as a successful leader for African Americans so he may look to previous successful leaders and see how they became successful. Without the background knowledge of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s speeches, she would not have seen the comparison that Obama was making to a historic leader. She researched and learned Dr. King’s techniques and compared them to the techniques Obama used in his speech at Howard University. She could look up on the Internet Dr. King’s speeches and read them and find any similar topics that he would talk about. The background knowledge of Dr. King’s speeches was necessary for Post to properly analysis Obama’s speech.
2. The website lists over 50 different types of reputation other than anaphora. There are different styles of repetition such as repetition of letter/sounds, repetition of words, repetition of clauses, or repetition of ideas. Many of these types of repetition are used in every day life. Such as anadiplosis, epizeuxis, and polysyndeton. We use many of these styles of repetition daily but we are unaware of the term.
3. I think that Obama was intentionally trying to mimic Dr. King’s speeches and role he held in the African American society. Dr. King was an excellent leader and if Obama wanted to earn respect, he would need to learn from someone who was highly respected. There are many similarities between the speech Obama gave and the speeches the Dr. King gave. Obama used Dr. King’s ideas to help him in gaining the votes of African Americans. Overall, I think that Obama’s use of Dr. King’s ideas was effective. The time and effort he put in to look up Dr. King’s speeches and research more about Dr. King shows his audience that he wants to be a successful leader and lead them to the Promise Land. Obama’s speech was effective and his use of rhetoric allowed him to influence his audience that he will become the leader they need.