 Playing the Game – Resource 2

Coach Boone’s ‘Gettysburg’ Speech

Speech: [Gettysburg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiqdA1B3_Nc)

Film: Remember the Titans

Speaker: Herman Boone (Denzel Washington), 1971

Coach Herman Boone (Denzel Washington) speaks to his controversial, multi-racial football team at the Civil War battleground of Gettysburg after a 3:00am run during training camp. Analyse his skilful use of persuasive technique below.

“Anybody know what this place is? This is Gettysburg. This is where they fought the Battle of Gettysburg. Fifty thousand men died right here on this field, fightin' the same fight that we're still fightin' amongst ourselves today.

This green field right here was painted red, bubblin' with the blood of young boys, smoke and hot lead pourin' right through their bodies. Listen to their souls, men:

‘I killed my brother with malice in my heart. Hatred destroyed my family.’

You listen. And you take a lesson from the dead. If we don't come together, right now, on this hallowed ground, we too will be destroyed – just like they were. I don't care if you like each other or not, but you will respect each other. And maybe – I don't know – maybe we'll learn to play this game like men.”

Discussion questions:

1. What is Boone's claim or position? Provide a quote to support your answer.
2. What is important to consider about the time period in which this speech was given when analysing the effectiveness of Boone’s use of persuasive techniques?
3. Which persuasive techniques does Boone use most? Give 3 examples (in the form of quotes) of the technique.
4. What 'analogy' does Boone make? Provide a quote to support your answer and explain.