In one of the most powerful of American political addresses, replete with biblical allusions, President Roosevelt takes control of a nation reeling from the Depression. The speech is less notable for its specific proposals—FDR had elaborated on these in his Commonwealth Club Address—than for its ambitious reach over the political landscape. Roosevelt asks for wartime executive powers to deal with the crisis and for Americans to bow with military discipline to his authority.

As humans, one of our most basic wants is the need to communicate. For centuries, people have relied on different rhetorical techniques to disseminate information and effectively communicate ideas. One of the clearest examples of rhetoric and society are the various inaugural addresses given by America’s presidents. Most United States presidents are excellent rhetors. When in office, the president often faces difficult climates or situations. As the leader of the nation, the president relies on rhetoric to reassure the people and outline his various plans.