



Connecting to Text

An Actor's Approach to Understanding a Historical Speech

CONTEXT MATTERS! ASK THE FOLLOWING....

WHO AM I?

Every detail is useful to inform your understanding of the speaker as a person.



WHERE AM I?

Include historical moment in time and location.



WHAT DO I WANT? WHAT IS MY OBJECTIVE?

This is the call to action and the purpose of the speech.



WHAT'S AT STAKE, OR WHAT ARE THE STAKES?

What does the speaker believe stands to be gained or lost?



WHAT BARRIERS ARE IN THE WAY?

What events, groups of people or other challenges does the speaker see as obstacles?



WHO IS THE AUDIENCE?

Who is the speaker trying to inspire or persuade overall?
When the speech was originally given, who was physically present in the audience?