**Donna Springer Webinar Presentation: Addams Essay 2**

Prompt: **Jane Addams (1860-1935) was a well-known and respected activist who devoted her career to social services in Chicago. On February 23, 1903, she delivered the following address to the city’s Union League Club – a civic organization – to commemorate the birthday of George Washington, the first president of the United States. Read the excerpt carefully. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze the rhetorical strategies Addams uses to communicate her views on the significance of George Washington’s legacy. Support your analysis with specific references to the text.**

This is a student essay (all but concluding paragraph). With your crayons/markers, let’s do the following:

In yellow highlight the thesis? What makes it good? Why?

In red highlight all verbs. What do you notice about the verbs?

In blue highlight the evidence used to support the argument. What makes it work?

Now, look at the sentence structure and integration of quotes. How does the writer integrate quotes? What type of sentence patterns do you see? Explain

This is not a perfect essay; however, it contains aspects of what the College Board expects to see in the upper level essays.

Suggestions: What could the writer do to improve this essay?

In February of 1903, activist Jane Addams delivered her George Washington speech, through the use of rhetorical devices, to the Union League Club, commemorating our first president’s birthday and juxtaposing his fighting spirit during moral issues with society and what they have lost over time.

Addams explains that society has lost the “same spirit of the soldier” which George Washington so proudly displayed. While gratifying Washington for his courageous virtues, Addams evokes pathos to illuminate the patriotism of this founding father and that he would risk “his own life for the life of a larger cause.” Addams also yields an appreciative tone to show her respect for Washington, and the example he set for the future. By beginning her paragraphs with rhetorical questions, Addams clearly recognizes the characteristics which led Washington’s legacy. Asking questions such as “What would George Washington say?” and “What was it he did?” creates a feeling of nostalgia which highlights the sacrifices made by these founding fathers to create a free and equal nation. Addams signifies that times have changed, causing patriotic spirits to be exchanged for an “emphasis put upon material possessions.” Through this transition, Addams provides a call to action as she rekindles the righteous virtues which became the foundation for the United States.

Addams incorporates key symbols into her speech to revive the lost feeling of patriotism in the U.S. By alluding to the American flag, she signifies that it stood “for righteousness as well as for increased commercial prosperity”, evoking a proud sense of nationalism. Although George Washington exists only in history books, Addams argues his legacy has a lasting effect on society through national symbols which recognize the once surging pride to be American. Addams repeats the phrase “we will have to” to spread her activist spirit through the audience and cause them to follow the same virtues on which the United States was built.