

Analyzing Claims in “The Fear of Change” and “Every Man A King”

Timed Response

Select one of the texts to write about. Determine two or more central ideas and write a response that analyzes the development of those ideas and the credibility of the speaker’s claims. Be sure to point out where the speaker lacks credibility and leaves matters uncertain.

Part I: “The Fear of Change” from The Ford Ideals by Henry Ford

- I. As you read “The Fear of Change,” make the following annotations:
 - a. Mark claims in yellow.
 - b. Mark supporting details (evidence, logic, examples, etc.) in green.
 - c. Place a question mark (?) in the margins where matters are uncertain/questions come into your mind.

- II. After reading “The Ford Ideals,” complete the following chart:

Paragraph(s)	Summary of Claims	Analysis of Impact Is the claim credible? How is it related or unrelated to the other claims in the text? How is this claim sequenced with the others?
1-4	The attitude of fear in America suggests that something is wrong.	The claim is credible; Ford describes the current and immediate past state of American affairs, surrounding an unnamed war (WWI). Ford presents his evidence first, then his claim.
5-9	Those who are fearful have a guilty conscience.	This claim builds upon Ford’s previous claim about the attitude of fear by describing those who are fearful as guilty.

12-14	Change is an inevitable “element of life.	This is a new claim introduced. Ford explains that humanity has changed. It isn’t connected to the previous claims of fear and its motivators.
19-28	Fear is a sign of weakness and selfishness. Those who have done right by their fellow man have nothing to fear.	Ford goes back to fear, building on his two previous claims. He lays out a lengthy explanation, making many subclaims regarding those he deems as “selfish” and those who are noble having nothing to fear.
29-38	If someone is raving about danger, one should ask which one of his schemes are in trouble? Those who are “peddling fear” are the privileged class.	Ford further elaborates on his claim that only the greedy and selfish need fear change. His claims bear a certain credibility because he himself is wealthy and privileged.
39-46	Europe’s fear of change has been the cause of many wars.	Ford offers a factual claim regarding Europe’s history with the fear of change, which further supports his previous claims and continues to build his credibility by broadening his evidence.
47-56	We want to abolish poverty and privilege; these changes will be good for everyone.	Ford caps off his argument by claiming that poverty and privilege should be abolished and that the proposed changes will benefit everyone. This is one of Ford’s weaker claims as he offers little to convince the reader of why or how privilege should be abolished.

III. Determine at least two central ideas, based on the summary and analysis of the claims in the chart above.

- a. Americans should embrace the changes that will destroy poverty and privilege, and ultimately lead to peace and prosperity for all men.*

- b. Those who are afraid of these changes are greedy, selfish, and have a guilty conscience.

Part II- “Every Man A King” by Huey P. Long

- I. As you read “Every Man A King,” make the following annotations:**
- Mark claims in yellow.
 - Mark supporting details (evidence, logic, examples, etc.) in green.
 - Place a question mark (?) in the margins where matters are uncertain/questions come into your mind.
- II. After reading “Every Man A King,” complete the following chart:**

Paragraph(s)	Summary of Claims	Analysis of Impact Is the claim credible? How is it related or unrelated to the other claims in the text? How is this claim sequenced with the others?
3-4	America’s problems are not difficult to solve	Long opens his remarks by stating that the solution to the persistent poverty facing the country at this moment in history is not difficult to solve, but rather, people are standing in the way of the solution. Long offers little evidence to support what he believes to be a simple problem but is effective at painting the “super rich” as the enemy, at a time when the economic pain of so many Americans would most definitely strike a nerve.
5-12	We have everything we need to solve these problems, if we go back to the fundamental principles the country was founded upon.	Long opens his next claim, which is somewhat connected to the first, by hearkening back to the Declaration of Independence. He devotes a considerable amount of words to building this claim, weaving in rhetorical questions,

		ultimately making this claim much more robust than the first.
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Paragraph(s)	Summary of Claims	Analysis of Impact Is the claim credible? How is it related or unrelated to the other claims in the text? How is this claim sequenced with the others?
12- 19	Religious scriptures have told us what the difficulty of these problems is.	This claim, is clearly built upon his first and second claim that a simple redistribution of the highly-concentrated wealth in America would solve America’s dogmatic poverty issue. He turns, here, to the scriptures, playing upon the deep and nearly universal faith of early 20th century Americans. This claim acts as nearly an extension of Long’s initial claims regarding the simplicity of the solution to poverty. With his biblical allusions and anecdotes, he hopes to bolster his claim by adding to the credibility of his evidence.
20-22	Greek philosophy has also pointed out this long standing societal problem.	Long continues to build on the initial claim, referencing Greek philosophy here, adding to the credibility of his supporting evidence. Again, a well-connected extension of the central claim.
23-24	Previous leaders have acknowledged the problem, but have not solved it.	Here, Long diverges from the otherwise artful and compelling construction of his claim regarding equitable redistribution of wealth. It’s unclear what Long’s point is here. Though, it likely speaks to his well-known political ambitions.

25	It is necessary to save America, more so than to save the government.	This short claim ushers in the pivot back to Long's central claim and the bridge to the subsequent call-to-action.
26-33	Americans must take action to influence a fairer distribution of wealth in the country and a decentralization of power.	This is Long's call-to-action. He's constructed a claim about the simplicity of the solution to solving poverty, provided a moral, ethical, and historical rationale for doing so, and now, he wants his audience to act by joining his "Share the Wealth" Society.

- III. Determine at least two central ideas, based on the summary and analysis of the claims in the chart above.
- The solution to America's poverty problem is simple, and it's a moral imperative to solve it.
 - Because the "super rich" are standing in the way of the poverty-solution, Americans must rise up and join together to demand an equitable distribution of the wealth in America.

Part III- Writing the Response

- After you select a text, re-read the prompt, and complete the following:
 - Thesis:
Though his political ambition steals the spotlight at times, Long's careful construction of his claim of the need for equitable distribution of wealth is generally well-organized and supported by evidence, and his message is clearly a credible one.
- Use the following format for each of your body paragraphs:
 - Assertion (Topic Sentence):
Long's central claim of equitable wealth distribution is effectively supported by his subclaims and sequenced bodies of evidence.

- b. Evidence #1:
Long begins by identifying his central claim that “we have no difficult problem to solve here in America.”
- c. Commentary:
Long opens his remarks by stating that the solution to the persistent poverty facing the country at this moment in history is not difficult to solve, but rather, people are standing in the way of the solution. He doesn’t, at this moment, elaborate on this claim.
- d. Evidence #2:
Following his statement of the initial claim, Long sequentially offers subclaims and corresponding evidence, using the Declaration of Independence, the Scriptures and Greek philosophy to validate his initial claim regarding the simple solution to America’s persistent problem of poverty.
- e. Commentary:
While Long’s initial claim leaves matters uncertain, his subclaims provide clarity and systematic support for the notion that there is a religious, ethical, and historical imperative to solve the problem. Long elaborates extensively on both the Declaration of Independence, its intended meaning, and the teachings of scripture. At moments these elaborations are nearly laborious, as if he is using words to wear down any potential detractors.
- f. Reflection:
Initially, Long’s claim lacked evidence, but he does an effective job of sequencing his sub claims and supporting evidence in support of his larger claim.

III. Style and Voice

Be sure to include the following in your response:

- a. **Syntax/Sentence Variety**
- b. **Tone and Word Choice**