



Unit 2 — Political Discourse, Advanced

Track E · Klasse 13 · Niveau E (Basisfach / Leistungsfach) · Abitur year

Learning objectives

- *I can read / listen to longer political discourse and identify rhetorical structure, register-shifts, and dog-whistle vocabulary.*
- *I can use advanced rhetorical-analysis vocabulary (dog whistle, framing battle, scripted spontaneity, agenda-control, loaded antithesis).*
- *I can write a 450-word rhetorical-analysis essay sustaining argument.*

Lead-in

The class read the full text of three Westminster Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) sessions from different administrations. The shared question: *how does each speaker control the agenda of the exchange when given six minutes?* The class noticed that agenda-control is rarely about the topic; it is about which question gets answered with which answer.

Vocabulary

- dog whistle
- framing battle
- scripted spontaneity
- agenda-control
- loaded antithesis
- ad hominem
- whataboutism
- ideological scaffolding
- prebuttal
- talking-point discipline
- register-shifting

Practise

- Match: dog whistle → coded signal to a base; whataboutism → deflect via counter-accusation; scripted spontaneity → rehearsed casualness.
- T or F: agenda-control means refusing to answer; register-shifting means changing accent; loaded antithesis hides agreement inside contrast.
- Identify in each PMQs paraphrase: agenda-control tactic + register-shift + one rhetorical move.

Your turn

Rhetorical-analysis essay, 450 words. Pick one of the three PMQs. Identify rhetorical structure, register-shifts, and any dog-whistle vocabulary. Use 6 advanced rhetorical terms + 4 integrated quotes + 7 academic discourse markers + 2 cleft structures.

Reflect

- I can identify rhetorical structure, register-shifts, and dog-whistle vocabulary.
- I can use 6+ advanced rhetorical-analysis terms.
- I can write a 450-word rhetorical-analysis essay.