
AP Exam Practice

Remember the prompt for this passage is to write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Adams makes to convey her argument about the value of experience.

Your exam practice is to write one paragraph analyzing how Abigail Adams uses comparison to appeal to her son, conveying her argument about the value of experiencing the challenges of travel abroad. Use both the river metaphor and the Cicero allusion as specific evidence. Don't forget to analyze how her knowledge of her audience helps her convey her message. Remember to consider the rhetorical situation in your analysis. - What does the writer (Abigail Adams) know about her audience (her son John Quincy Adams) and how does that play a role in the effectiveness of the use of comparison.

EXIGENCE

John Quincy Adams is reluctant about being in France with his father, who is a U.S. diplomat

PURPOSE

Abigail Adams, his mother, wants to convince him that it is a valuable experience and that he should be actively engaging in the experience

AUDIENCE

John Quincy Adams, Abigail's son

CONTEXT

1780, "eyewitness of these calamities," "defence of their invaded liberties"

WRITER

Abigail Adams, his mother

MESSAGE

This experience, though difficult, will be build the "character of a hero and statesman"