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Debate

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In this debate, the context of the argument is based on the presidential election. This is a presidential debate meant to show people what the presidential candidates have to offer for their country. Every contestant has the time to persuade the people to vote for them but on the other hand, they both want to smear dirt on one another to reduce each other's chances of being elected. Hence, this normally makes such debates intense as seen in this specific one. The two candidates go off on each other despite there is little they can do to influence or even change the voters' decision. According to Trump, Biden is not fit for office and vice versa (News.com.au, 2020). They aim at tearing each other apart verbally so that the voters will see who is better.

There are several rhetorical devices used by both candidates in this debate. One of them is amplification. This is meant to emphasize a point so that the audience can take into consideration what is being said. In this debate's case, Trump says that Biden graduated 'lowest or almost the lowest' in his class which is meant to convince the audience that he is incompetent and uneducated to become the president of the United States of America. Another rhetorical device is allusion. Biden tells Trump that he was raised in the suburbs and that what Trump thinks of the suburbs is not related to what it is now (News.com.au, 2020). To quote, he said 'this is not 1950' after addressing the fact that he was raised in the suburbs (News.com.au, 2020). This makes the audience compare what Biden is saying and what is well known currently. Therefore, this helps the viewers relate to the situation without going into detail. Last but not least, Trump's sarcastic smiles are meant to discredit whatever Biden is saying. Thus listeners tend to believe Biden's statement may not be true. The aim of using these rhetorical devices is to shed more light on what the speaker is addressing. Therefore, through them, the audience can react to what the speaker says and how they say it.

Most speakers use these devices intentionally to emphasize a point. In this case, the devices are intentionally used by both candidates. Through these rhetorical devices, the speaker can paint the whole picture on the point they are putting across. Thus, making it easier for listeners to comprehend. Convincing the audience at times may be difficult but with these rhetorical devices, it is made easier. These rhetorical devices were used to achieve different effects such as sympathy, anger or even passion by the audience towards the candidates.

Reference

News.com.au. (2020). US Presidential debate turns ugly: The must watch moments from Trump and Biden's first debate [YouTube]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvQshdwGKoo>

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