

ACTIVITY 3

A01

A02

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS,
INTERPRETATION

▼ IDENTIFYING TECHNIQUES IN OBITUARIES

Obituaries are often sympathetic accounts of someone's achievements.

- ▶ How does the writer of the Mandela extract begin to influence the reader's sympathies?
- ▶ What makes these extracts more appropriate for obituaries than for biographies?

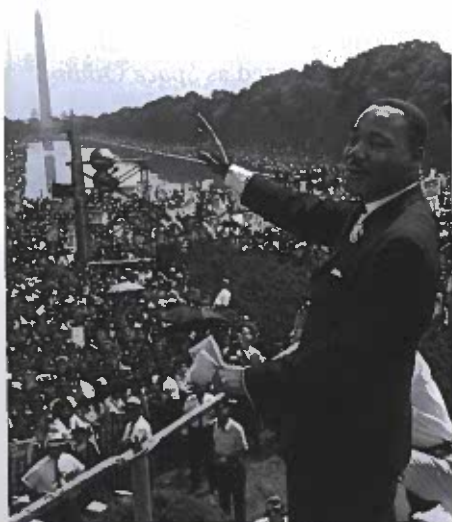
Copy and complete the following table, finding examples of the methods and techniques in the two extracts and commenting on their effect. Now identify some methods for yourself, remembering to back them up with evidence from the text and comment on their effect.

▼ METHOD OR TECHNIQUE	▼ EXAMPLE	▼ COMMENT ON EFFECT
Formal register		
Focus on factual information		
Conciseness of writing		

SUBJECT VOCABULARY

register the type or style of vocabulary used according to the situation

SPEECHES



▲ Martin Luther King at the March on Washington rally in August 1963

Speeches can be given for many different reasons. Lawyers make speeches in court for the defence or the prosecution. People make speeches in debates or after formal dinners to entertain an audience. However, the most famous speeches are those made by politicians as part of campaigns. The purpose of such speeches is often to rally supporters and give listeners a sense of purpose and inspiration.

The following speech was made by the American civil rights campaigner, Martin Luther King Junior, who was later assassinated for his beliefs and his work on behalf of black Americans.

As you read the speech, think about how Martin Luther King shows his listeners that he is fighting for a better and fairer society in America, using techniques such as:

- repetition of key words
- repetition of the beginning of sentences
- reference to particular individuals
- use of geographical references (i.e. different parts of the United States)
- describing the difficulties black people have faced over the years
- the idea of bringing all people together
- the use of words from a patriotic song.