

Critical Thinking Assignment

This assignment is to be done in the context of Barack Obama's and John McCain's nomination acceptance speeches. Whether you heard both speeches or not, it would be a good idea to either watch the acceptance speeches or read the transcripts. See below for links to each Presidential candidate's nomination acceptance speech and transcript.

Your assignment is to write a 2-3-page paper (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt. font) in which you apply a **critical thinking** approach to examining an issue that you feel passionately about and which was addressed in the two Presidential candidates' acceptance speeches. Identify an issue that allows you to apply the following criteria of a critical thinking approach:

- Summarize the problem, question, or issue
- Consider context and assumptions
- Communicate your own perspective, hypothesis, or position
- Analyze supporting data and evidence
- Use other perspectives and positions
- Assess conclusions, implications, and consequences

The attached rubric indicates levels of accomplishment for each of these criteria. Your instructor will use this rubric to evaluate your writing.

Democratic Candidate, Barack Obama:

Acceptance Speech may be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWe7wTVbLUU>

Transcript: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94087570>

Republican Candidate, John McCain:

Acceptance Speech may be found at:
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/26552443#26552443>

Transcript: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94302894>