Henry V

English

Persuasive writing - King Henry's speech

in 'Henry V', King Henry delivers one of Shakepeare's most famous speeches. Before the battle at Harfleur, Henry rallies his troops for one last attack on the French town. The men are exhausted but this speech inspires them on to victory. You can read and hear this speech on our reading resource.



Think about what makes this speech inspiring:

- What language does he use?
- What images does he create?
- How does he build the atmosphere throughout the speech?
- What is effective about how the speech ends?

Imagine that your are King Henry just before the battle of Agincourt. You know that your troops are outnumbered and there are five times as many French soldiers. Your men are exhausted from a long campaign and, although you have been successful so far, they are scared about facing such an enormous army.

Write a speech for Henry to deliver to his men before this final battle.

Things to think about:

- What will your opening sentence be?
- How will you ask your men to behave?
- Why do you want them to win?
- What will they get if they win?
  e.g. glory, power, riches
- What will your final rallying cry be?

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