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Introduction

Laden with fear and sorrow, people from all corners of the United States gather around their television seeking any sort of knowledge on the day's events. Two planes had just flown directly into the Twin Towers in New York City, and the devastation only continued from there. Thousands dead, thousands working to save lives, and millions stuck in a state of utter confusion and dismay. It is September 11, 2001; as President George Bush sits down to make an address to the nation. Using Neo-Aristotelian criticism, I will analyze this address as the foundation of how presidents should manage a national upset. I will begin by explaining the context in which the address was given. Then I will apply the five canons of rhetoric and follow with assessing the impact the Address to the Nation had on the audience.