

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/fear-of-persuasion-in-the-english-language-arts/>

This video reflects on the changing landscape of political communication and education in the United States, particularly after the 2016 presidential election. The speaker discusses the shock many academics felt regarding the election outcome, which highlighted a perceived collapse in the foundations of public discourse and the ability to engage across political divides.

The speaker critiques modern philosophical attempts to separate rhetoric from discourse, arguing that this has contributed to a sense of alienation in public decision-making. Instead of merely relying on facts and logical argumentation, the speaker advocates for a renewed appreciation of persuasion, emphasizing that emotions and personal connections are integral to effective communication.

This video also highlights the decline of public speaking and debate in American education, attributing some of this to the rise of standardized testing and the Common Core curriculum, which emphasizes logical argumentation at the expense of persuasive discourse. The speaker points out troubling binaries emerging in educational settings that view persuasion as separate from argumentation, which undermines the teaching of effective communication skills.

Overall, the speaker calls for a more holistic understanding of rhetoric that incorporates emotion, personal investment, and the complexities of human reasoning to foster more integrative and effective political discourse.