Ana Friedman
Margaret Poncin
English 101
Rhetorical Analysis Draft I
9/17/12

“The Perils of Indifference” by Elie Wiesel

Holocaust is a word that is associated with death and inhuman treatment. Holocaust is a word that suggests death and indifference. In April 1945, after struggling with starvation and brutal punishment in Buchenwald, Elie Wiesel was liberated from a concentration camp. In April 1999, Wiesel was invited by Hillary Clinton to participate in the Millennium Lectures; his famous speech “The Perils of Indifference” is a call to action in order to defend the human life. Elie Wiesel as a survivor from the Holocaust who appeals to the human conscience by relating his experience. In his effective speech, the author emphasizes the word “indifference” in order to establish a closer connection between the past and the present. He captures his audience with facts, but in his emotional speech the category pathos can be easily recognized.

First of all, in the context of his speech Wiesel targets his audience effectively; it is authorities and governors like the President Clinton and Hillary Clinton in the White House. They are challenged and compromised to fight in order to stop the atrocities against innocent people without faith. Authorities are called to work toward the human rights. The author is grateful for his rescue from the concentration camp. He uses words like “profound and abiding gratitude” to emphasize the value of being saved by militaries. Wiesel reports facts to his audience and he adds the word “indifference”, which is constantly repeated in his speech. In addition, the author exacerbates his speech by exerting words with strong meaning like