

"I Will Fight No More Forever" is the name given to the speech made by Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce on October 5, 1877, when the Nez Perce were forced to surrender to Colonel Nelson Miles and General O. O. Howard after the Battle of the Bear Paw Mountains

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/arts/culture-magazines/i-will-fight-no-more-forever-0>

Audience: general's adjutant (administrative staff officer)

I Will Fight No More Forever

Surrender Speech by Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce

I am tired of fighting.
Our chiefs are killed.
Looking Glass is dead.
Toohulhulsote is dead.
The old men are all dead.
It is the young men who say yes or no.
He who led the young men is dead.
It is cold and we have no blankets.
The little children are freezing to death.
My people, some of them, have run away to the hills and have no blankets, no food.
No one knows where they are
--perhaps freezing to death.
I want to have time to look for my children and see how many I can find.
Maybe I shall find them among the dead.
Hear me, my chiefs. I am tired.
My heart is sick and sad.
From where the sun now stands,
I will fight no more forever.

"I Will Fight No More Forever"

by Chief Joseph

Critical Thinking

1. Why do you think Chief Joseph mentions by name the people who have died? What is his intent for doing so? (hint: consider the audience for his speech)
2. What does Chief Joseph mean when he says, "From where the sun now stands"?

3. Why do you think Chief Joseph surrenders after he has fought so bravely? Which details from the selection shed light on his decision?
4. Judging by his speech, how would you describe Chief Joseph's relationship with his people? What phrases or sentences support your interpretation?
5. How did years of conflict change Chief Joseph's view of conflict itself? How has this speech affected your own views regarding conflict?
6. What tone does Chief Joseph establish by using words such as heart, tired, freezing, and dead? Why do you think he chooses to establish this tone?
7. The repetition of words or phrases that have similar grammatical structures is called parallel structure. What examples of parallel structure can you find in this selection? Choose one example, and explain how it emphasizes one of the speaker's fundamental ideas.
8. How does Chief Joseph's speech appeal to logos (logic), pathos (emotions), or both? Explain your response.

- **Logos** appeals to the audience's reason, building up logical arguments. **Ethos** appeals to the speaker's status or authority, making the audience more likely to trust them. **Pathos** appeals to the emotions, trying to make the audience feel angry or sympathetic.