The horrendous events that occurred during the Holocaust were not met with empathy but instead the public batted a blind eye. In Germany, Hitler blamed the Jews for the financial instability of the country. He continued on to convince the public that eliminating the Jews would bring the financial stability they so desperately needed, despite the fact that the Jewish people were innocent and had done nothing wrong to deserve this punishment. One individual who experienced what the concentration camps were like first hand was, Elie Wiesel: an author, journalist, and professor. He has dedicated his life to making sure that the world doesn't forget what happened back in Germany under Hitler’s control. He continues to encourage everyone to get involved and take a stand on future societal issues.

Wiesel’s message was unwaveringly clear: silence condemns the victims just as much as the victimizer. He develops this idea with plenty of emotions dispersed throughout his speech. Using pathos, Wiesel subtly influences his audience to feel the agony that he felt during these tragic events and the pain that he still feels today over losing so many important people in his life. “No one may speak for the dead, no one may interpret their mutilated dreams and visions.” Wiesel understands that his speech can only honor the individuals who were lost but he can’t speak on their behalf. He goes on to say that he feels their existence, “The presence of my parents, that of my little sister. The presence of my teachers, my friends, my companions.” Wiesel wanted the public to know that the dead are still with them all today, “… that the world did know and remained silent.” Wiesel makes it a point to connect to his audience on a personal level. Wiesel gets his listeners to consider what it would be like to lose their own friends and family to a moral wrong and not have anything done about it. Once his listeners are imagining themselves in Wiesel’s shoes, then they can take a stand and do something about the future.

Using repetition of words Wiesel is able to emphasize how important this matter is and that people cannot ignore what happened, “Because if we forget, we are guilty we are accomplices.” The recurrence of words drills into everyone’s mind how meaningful this is. He emphasizes the use of “we” to create a feeling of unity and to bring the world together to fix future problems and to look back and learn from the past. Throughout Wiesel’s speech he talks about himself as a young boy and he asks some truly powerful questions, “Can this be true? … Who would allow such crimes to be committed? … How could the world remain silent?” His use of interrogative sentences make the listener question their own morals and what they have done to help. Furthermore this makes the reader question what their opinions are on modern day problems. Not to mention the fact that Wiesel has strong opinions on the harsh actions that
were carried out during the Holocaust. His tone slips through into his word choice and sentence structures. While accepting his award he talks about not being worthy of it “The honor belongs to all the survivors and their children and, through us to the Jewish people with whose destiny I have always identified.” Wiesel accepts this award not for himself but for everyone that was lost, in hope that no one has to ever go through the struggle that the Jews went through. Throughout his entire speech Wiesel’s tone influences his viewers to not only think about everything through his perspective but to get them motivated to stop wrongdoings in the future.

Tasked with accepting a nobel peace prize on behalf of the Jewish community, Wiesel urges the crowd to look towards the future and to learn from their past mistakes. His directive was heard loud and clear: speak out against injustice. Standing silently will not help the victim but instead provoke the victimizer. Wiesel continued on to urge his spectators to take a side and to not be neutral. Let that problem be the center of everything.