Analysis of Angelina Jolie’s keynote speech 2017

Task 1 - Watch Angelina Jolie’s keynote address, given at The Hollywood Reporter’s ‘Women In Entertainment Breakfast’ in 2017:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Kqxvr396nc&t=3s

Task 2 - Jolie’s keynote address has been given as a transcript. A feature of transcripts is that they try to represent speech as fully as possible, showing word stress, pauses, the speaker’s body language and responses from the listener(s) where appropriate.

Read the transcript and annotate your copy with answers for the following questions.

What is the main message of the keynote address?
1. What is Jolie’s purpose? Is she trying to inform, to persuade, to entertain, to instruct or something else?
2. Who is Jolie’s audience? What group of people in the same venue is she immediately addressing? This speech was reprinted in numerous magazines and it is available to view on platforms like YouTube. What potential group of people is she reaching?
3. What language techniques has Angelina Jolie used? Find examples of the following:
   a. emotive language
   b. contrast
   c. pronouns
   d. any other relevant devices
4. This is a speech and was designed to be listened to. How has Jolie used benefits of the spoken mode to enhance her meaning? Find examples of emphasis or pausing that has an impact on meaning.

Task 3 - Write an analytical essay using the notes you have made about questions 1-5 to answer the following question. Write between 500 and 1000 words.

How does Jolie use language to present female solidarity?

Key for transcript of speech
bold = word emphasised
(italics) = gesture
. = pause of less than a second
[1] = pause with number of seconds indicated

I imagine [] many of us [] in the room this morning began at home making breakfast [] and listening [] and doing last minute homework [] and listening [] and debating the importance of brushing teeth. [2] ((laughter from audience)) and listening after you say you have to get
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ready now and they say why don’t you just go like that, ((sweeps hand to give example to audience)) ((laughter from audience)) and you’re so tired, you think, oh maybe. ((look up)) ((laughter from audience))

[1] But that’s the life of a, a woman, to think of others first is our nature [.] and when my children asked me this morning, I explained why I wanted to be here, [.] why I feel it’s important to be with other women [.] and talk about those women [.] and women in art.[2]

All of us here are different people[,] but we have something quite radical in common [.] we have the freedom to be artists [.] the freedom to create, to challenge authority fearlessly [.] to laugh at power and make others laugh with us [.] the right to speak truth as we see it [.] we all know women in our lives who were never able to live their creative dreams [.] because they had to put their families first [.] who pour their creative work into homework assignments and birthday parties[.] I think of my own mom [2]

And we all know that our industry lacks [.] diversity and equality [1] and that there is so much that we have to change and fight for [1] but we have a level of freedom that is unimaginable for millions of other women [.] around the world [.] women who live with conflict and terrorism and displacement and poverty, who never get a chance [.] whose voices are always silenced [.] we don’t have to keep our heads down [.] we don’t have to think that the film we make or our comments on politics or joke we tell on stage could land us in prison [.] where we might be tortured or punished [1] we don’t live with censorship [.] we don’t have to worry [.] that acting in a play or singing on television will bring violence or dishonor to our families. [1] We don’t have to tailor our clothes [.] or our opinions [.] to what is acceptable to religious authorities or violent extremist groups [1] we are not shunned and considered immoral as women because we dare to speak our mind about what we consider to be wrong in society.

We (.) have the right to think freely[,] and to speak freely[,] and to put forward our ideas on equal terms [.] And there are women across the world who face serious danger and get hurt just trying to have a voice [1] just an opinion [2] so it’s hard to celebrate our progress [.] while this is still the case, but it means [.] that asserting ourselves as female artists represents something really, really important in the world today [.] and participating in art and culture [.] it’s not a luxury for a privileged few in society [1] it is in fact a human right [1] laid down in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights [.] every woman has a right not only to independence and security but to live her life [.] to the full and to express herself to the full [1] including through art and ideas as well as politics [1] and that right is denied so often to women because it is so powerful [2]
Art influences and it catches the imagination [1] it challenges orthodoxy [1] and societies [1] where women are denied freedom of expression [.] those societies are being shaped [.] without the voice and influence and wisdom [.] of women [1] so that is why I’m so grateful to be a part of [.] this community and the wider community of artists around the world. I’m so happy to be here with you today [1] and so together [.] we stand for more than our rights and freedoms but we do stand for the freedoms and rights [.] of all women [.] we have in this room the ability to help those women, artists struggling, to help find a way to make sure their voices are heard [1] to show solidarity with them. To champion them. To help them tell their stories [.] so I look forward to working with many of you, all of you, on that effort.[1]

I thank you [.] I thank you [.] I thank the Hollywood Reporter for [.] this event [.] for allowing us to be together and to speak [.] and I congratulate everyone being acknowledged, particularly everyone involved in the scholarship program ((points at and acknowledges girls)) ((audience applause)) and I want to thank all the amazing women artists I’ve worked with over the years and learned so much from (. ) Cherie ((mentions women’s name in audience)) ((laughing)) and I pay tribute [1]and we all do [.] to all the women who came before us [.] who pushed the boundaries in their lifetime so that we could be standing here today [.] and above all pay tribute to the women, artists, journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers around the world [.] who refuse to be intimidated [.] the brave people who are fighting so that others, one day, will have the freedoms that we have [.] so I’m very, very proud to stand with all of you [.] thank you very much ((audience applause and cheer))

820 words

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