

« Ballots or Bullets » by Malcolm X

- 1) Highlight the words or groups of words which are repeated several times.
“ trap”, “ ballot”, “bullet”, “enemy”, “hang”, “victim”, “Democracy”, “hypocrisy”, “lynch”.
- 2) Underline the pronouns. What can you notice?
At the beginning of the text Malcolm X uses the pronoun “I” but by the end of the text he uses the pronoun “we”. It symbolizes the African American community.
- 3) Who is the enemy?
The enemy can be the white people or the people who support MLK’s movement.
- 4) Can you find one metaphor?
(135) “ If you go to jail, so what? If you black, you were born in jail.” He compares the USA to a massive prison for the African American people.
- 5) What are the main ideas.
Ex: Malcolm X thinks that

Need some help? Malcolm X argues that..... (affirmer que) / Malcolm X claims that.... (Affirmer que/ soutenir que) / Malcolm X advocates.... (préconiser, recommander/ prôner)

Malcolm X argues that the African Americans are constantly trapped either by the American society or by the white people. He claims that he is not attacked because of his religion but because of the color of his skin. He denounces Martin Luther King’s movement. According to him they are fools to believe that the white people will help them to be treated equally. He advocates for violence by making references to “ballot” or “bullet” throughout the speech. For him, the black people are victims and living in a massive jail. He also refers to lynching as a common practice where the only difference is the people who do it and their accents.