

The democratic party has historically prided itself in its representation of progressiveness and equality. In her powerful speech at the 1992 Democratic National Convention Party, Barbara Jordan reminds delegates of that exact mission; by repeating key phrases, drawing wisdom from credible Democratic figures, and connecting their actions to esteemable values, Jordan illustrates the party's long-lasting mission to represent the whole of the American people.

Jordan begins by introducing the "idea" of unity -- one that has characterized the country from its founding to "today" -- with a memorable phrase: "from many, one." This concept serves as a basis for her argument that members share joint "complicity" in solving the problems faced by the party: "budget deficits" and "entitlement," -- a mission she reaffirms will not be "easy" but is necessary as it is driven by a commitment to "justice." By constantly reminding her audience of ideas that surpass the individual, Jordan instills the importance of the party's mission. "Equity in sacrifice" is yet another crucial element of this -- an argument reinforced by Jordan's repetition of the phrase, which again alludes to a grand value.

Through evoking a sense of duty to embody the party's commitment to "equity" and unity," Jordan prompts the audience into accepting what she argues is a logical evolution for Democrats: "gender equity" within the party. By characterizing the years in which "political power" was "dominated by white, male policy makers" as "wrong," Jordan heavily appeals to her audience's desire to act with morals that align with the aforementioned values, therefore validating their nomination of a "Madame President" as a step in the right direction.

Serving as additional ethos for this argument, Jordan quotes de Tocqueville, an influential figure in the matter of democracy, who supported the inclusion of "women" in a party whose mission is rooted in equality.

As if anticipating her critics' comments, Jordan continues by reassuring her audience of the significance of their actions tonight by alluding to the idea that the party must regain the "trust" of those they aim to represent. She crafts a response to such "cynics": a "democratic President" "protects liberty" -- yet another theme reflected in the Democratic party's mission. She goes on to question the notion that "character" is an important aspect of leadership, as many believe in 1992. However, through citing "the father of the constitution," Jordan proposes the idea that historically, "reason" has outweighed "emotionalism" in judging the quality of a leader. Her repetition of the word in the following paragraph furthers the importance of a timeless value as guidance for the Democratic party's actions.

Posing the question -- "who can best... our history? -- Jordan concludes with a powerful remark from Roosevelt's inaugural address as a tentative answer: "leadership met with understanding and support of the people themselves." It is only by reminding themselves of the values that have historically characterized the party's actions -- "unity", "equity" "reason" -- that they can truly achieve the mission of governing the people.