



Demosthenes' "On The Crown": Rhetorical Perspectives

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Demosthenes' speech *On the Crown* (330 B.C.E.), in which the master orator spectacularly defended his public career, has long been recognized as a masterpiece. The speech has been in continuous circulation from Demosthenes' lifetime to the present day, and multiple generations have acclaimed it as the greatest speech ever written. In addition to a clear and accessible translation, *Demosthenes' "On the Crown": Rhetorical Perspectives* includes eight essays that provide a thorough analysis—based on Aristotelian principles—of Demosthenes' superb rhetoric.

The volume includes biographical and historical background on Demosthenes and his political situation; a structural analysis of *On the Crown*; and an abstract of Aeschines' speech *Against Ctesiphon* to which Demosthenes was responding. Four essays by contributors analyze Demosthenes' speech using key elements of rhetoric defined by Aristotle: ethos, the speaker's character or authority; pathos, or emotional appeals; logos, or logical appeals; and lexis, a speaker's style. An introduction and an epilogue by Murphy frame the speech and the rhetorical analysis of it.

By bringing together contextual material about Demosthenes and his speech with a translation and astute rhetorical analyses, *Demosthenes' "On the Crown": Rhetorical Perspectives* highlights the oratorical artistry of Demosthenes and provides scholars and students with fresh insights into a landmark speech.

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