“Life is a game of inches”

*Pacino's 'Inch by inch' speech is taken from the movie 'Any Given Sunday' in which he plays Tony D'Amato, the coach of the fictional NFL team the Miami Sharks.*

**Transcript**

“I don’t know what to say really. Three minutes till the biggest battle of our professional lives. It all comes down to today.

Now **either we heal as a team, or we’re gonna crumble**. **Inch by inch, play by play**, till we’re finished. **We’re in hell** right now, gentlemen. Believe me. And **we can stay here**, get the shit kicked out of us, or **we can fight our way back into the light**. We can **climb out of hell.**

**One inch at a time.**

Now I can’t do it for you. I’m too old. I look around, I see these young faces, and I think… I mean **I’ve made** every wrong choice a middle-aged man can make.**I pissed away** all my money, believe it or not.**I chased off** anyone who’s ever loved me, and lately, I can’t even stand the face I see in the mirror.

You know, when you get old in life, things get taken from you. That’s part of life. But you only learn that when you start losing stuff. You find out**life’s this game of inches**. And so is football. Because in either game, life or football, the margin for error is so small. I mean… **one** **half a step too late or too early and you don’t quite make it. One half second too slow or too fast, you don’t quite catch it**.

**The inches we need** are everywhere around us. They're in **every** break of the game, **every** minute, **every** second. **On this team, we fight for that inch. On this team, we tear ourselves and everyone else around us to pieces for that inch**. **We claw with our fingernails for that inch**.

Because we know when we add up all those inches, that’s gonna make the difference **between winning and losing! Between living and dying**! I’ll tell you this – in any fight, its the guy whose willing to die who’s gonna win **that inch**. And I know if I’m going to have any life anymore, it’s because I’m still willing to fight and die for**that inch**. Because that’s what living is! The**6 inches in front of your face**…

Now I can’t make you do it. You’ve got to look at the guy next to you, look into his eyes. Now I think **you’re gonna see a guy who will** go **that inch** with you. **You’re gonna see a guy who will** sacrifice himself for this team, because he knows when it comes down to it, you’re gonna do the same for him.

That’s a team, gentlemen. And**either we heal,**now**, as a team, or we will die, as individuals**. That’s football, guys. That’s all it is. Now, **what are you going to do**?”

1. Discuss the audience and the author’s manipulation of the audience.
2. Is this a successful speech? Why?
3. Does the speaker use any of the appeals – logos, pathos, and ethos – to convince the listeners? How?
4. The tone shifts throughout the selection. Where? But more importantly, why?
Note the rhetorical devices the speaker uses.