

One-Page Cold Write: Lou Gehrig

Thesis Statement: expresses the main idea of the prompt. It makes a claim, directly answering a question.

AEC Paragraphs:

1. **Assertion** • A statement that answers the question asked in the prompt • Otherwise known as your claim • Everything in the paragraph should be used to prove your assertion • clear, bold statement
2. **Evidence** • Otherwise known as examples • These examples are the quotes or paraphrased information taken from the text to prove your assertion. They serve as your support.
3. **Commentary x 2** • Otherwise known as analysis • This should be where you elaborate/explain how your evidence is crucial in proving that your assertion is true.

Choose a **quotation** from Gehrig's speech and write a one-page paper that **identifies the speaker**, **summarizes the speech**, and describes the **context** and **purpose** of the speech.

• **50/ 50 or See-Saw Method**

Complex sentence (look up transitional words and phrases) $\frac{1}{2}$ **phrase contains AUTHOR and GENRE** while other $\frac{1}{2}$ **phrase contains TITLE & PROMPT THESIS.**

While Lou Gehrig's speech is considered the greatest baseball speech of all time amongst all of his on-field statistics, "The Farewell Address" is the epitome of a mild-mannered gentleman who cares for the people surrounding him as when he states after valedictory, "Did my speech sound silly? Did it," which centralizes how a man considers himself last, which is a true hero.

While it may be true that athletes have not lived up to what a true hero is, Lou Gehrig shatters that mold due to the fact his character was unable to be compared with any other baseball player of his status during his reign on the diamonds. **For example, Gehrig's life was not "silly" by dedicating it to his family's honor by not cheating on his wife nor calling in sick after playing 2,130 consecutive games.** "Tanglefoot Lou" respected his spouse as a woman and his best friend, stating how strong she was in his speech. Gehrig and played for his fans and for the love of the game. His appreciation was that of philanthropic donations to the community. Gehrig was respected by all fans whether they rooted for the Yankees or not. **Moreover, the shortest and the greatest baseball speech of all time was that of honoring his fans and colleagues, not the other way to say how fantastic he was as a player.** He certainly knew he was the "luckiest man on the face of the planet" since he was able to do what he loved, play the game of baseball. Gehrig's speech was an absolute delight and positively was not "**silly**" in any shape or form.

Even though America was exiting the effects of the Great Depression which rocked the country to its foundations, Gehrig's speech transcended the country's attitude of looking to the greater good humanity can offer by his exquisite words. **The historical context was not just a farewell to the game but more of an abstract transcendence for suffering Americans to know they have "an awful lot to live for."** Just think, the Stock Market crash had people throwing themselves out windows plummeting to the ground due to fortunes lost. Bread lines were blocks long. Dust Bowls swept and destroyed the Midwest. People evacuated. Gehrig's speech was a minor occurrence considering the big picture. He was hope to the hopeless which is emphatically not "**sounding silly.**" Finally, this 150 second speech had a **purpose** which made Gehrig's final comment to his teammates seem unreal. This ballplayer was soon to die because of ALS. He was sending his love, saying his goodbyes to both those baseball diamonds he sprinted around for 17 years, as well as, to the fans who cheered him onward. But being the kind of mild-mannered and gentle, non-silly man Gehrig was, he was expressing his gratitude toward his family who loved him and the family of men who he went to battle with every day of the season and for Lou Gehrig to return to the Yankees and humbly question "Did my speech sound silly? Did it," simply shows a man who respects the time and appreciates the love he received.