

*This is a sample of one body paragraph that fulfills the “exploring how—or to what extent—one specific demagogic characteristic works . . . discussing[ing] examples—extracted from the speech—of this characteristic” portion of the prompt, which simply sets up the textual example with the demagogic characteristic. Additional paragraphs regarding this specific textual example would include evaluation by “explaining why it may have been used in relation to the speech’s context” and discussing “its possible effects on Trump’s intended audience.” Further paragraphs could also be included in this sample essay, discussing additional areas in the text where nationalism can be seen.*

One area in which Trump uses Roberts-Miller’s demagogic characteristic of nationalism is when he states, “The U.S. has become a dumping ground for everybody else’s problems . . . . It’s true, and these are the best and the finest. When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you” (par. 8-9). Here, it can be seen that Trump is promoting American nationalism. He is not simply being patriotic by loving the country and the people within it. Rather, he is creating “the sense that one’s nation is the best” (Roberts-Miller 57). As he does so, Trump ends up criticizing Mexico and Mexicans, since one “can’t have two ‘best’ countries, [so] the achievements of other countries and cultures have to be denigrated” (Roberts-Miller 57). Trump does this by claiming Americans “are the best and the finest,” leading the audience to believe they, as American citizens, are better than the citizens of every other country (par. 9). Specifically, they are better than Mexicans. Since Mexico is not sending their “best” citizens, since the only “best” citizens are American citizens, they are “sending people that have lots of problems . . .” (par. 9). Trump, then, comes to the conclusion that these “problems” are being dumped on the American nation, therefore dirtying America’s pristine reputation.