

Rhetorical Strategies/Devices:

- ✓ **Modes of discourse**
 - ❖ Exposition: illustrates a point
 - ❖ Narration: tells a story
 - ❖ Description: creates a sensory image
 - ❖ Argumentation: takes a position on an issue and defends it

- ✓ **Schemes**
 - ❖ **Parallelism:** refers to a grammatical or structural similarity between sentences or parts of a sentence. It involves an arrangement of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs so that elements of equal importance are equally and similarly phrased, e.g., he was walking, running, and jumping for joy.
 - ❖ **Antithesis:** contrasting words, phrases, or clauses are placed next to each other
 - Antithesis of words
Ex: excited yet fearful
 - Antithesis of phrases
Ex: excited about becoming independent yet fearful of making mistakes
 - Antithesis of clauses
Ex: discovering that I was excited about becoming independent yet I was fearful of making mistakes
 - ❖ **Ellipsis:** any omission of words, the meaning of which is provided by the overall context of the passage
Ex: I wrote to my friend daily, and he to me.
 - ❖ **Asyndeton:** omission of conjunctions between related clauses
Ex: I came, I saw, I conquered.
 - ❖ **Polysyndeton:**
 - ❖ **Parenthetical Elements**
 - ❖ **Alliteration**—repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning or in the middle of two or more adjacent words
Ex: still silent stars
 - ❖ **Assonance:** repetition of vowel sounds in the stressed syllables of two or more adjacent words
 - Ex: kind, reliable, right-minded
 - ❖ **Epistrophe (e-PIS-truh-fee):** repetition of the same group of words at the end of successive clauses
Ex: To acquire the ability to meditate, I sat like a monk, I listened like a monk, I prayed like a monk.
 - ❖ **Anaphora (uh-NA-fuh-ruh)**—repetition of the same group of words at the beginning of successive clauses
Ex: Literature imparts cultural values to children; literature imparts knowledge to adults; literature imparts wisdom to those who are open.

- ❖ **Anadiplosis** (a-nuh-duh-**PLOH**-suhs)—repetition of the last word of one clause at the beginning of the following clause
Ex: Pondering leads to meditating; meditating leads to studying; studying reflects commitment.

✓ **Tropes**

- ❖ **Metaphor**: a comparison without the use of like or as. The poet states that one thing is another. It is usually a comparison between something that is real or concrete and something that is abstract, e.g., Life is but a dream.
- ❖ **Simile**: a comparison of two different things or ideas through the use of words like or as. It is definitely stated comparison, where the poet says one thing is like another, e.g., The warrior fought like a lion.
- ❖ **Allusion**
- ❖ **Synecdoche** (suh-**NEK**-duh-kee): a part of something is used to refer to the whole
Ex: "Take thy *face* hence."
(William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*)
- ❖ **Periphrasis** (puh-**RI**-frah-suhs): a descriptive word or phrase is used to refer to a proper name
Ex: The big man upstairs always answers sincere prayers.
- ❖ **Personification**
- ❖ **Metonymy** (muh-**TAH**-nuh-mee): an entity is referred to by one of its characteristics or attributes
Ex: The pen is mightier than the sword.
- ❖ **Pun**: the humorous use of a word or phrase so as to emphasize or suggest its different meanings or applications, or the use of words that are alike or nearly alike in sound but different in meaning; a play on words.
- ❖ **Anthimeria** (an-thuh-**MEER**-ee-uh): one part of speech, usually a verb, substitutes for another, usually a noun
Ex: A sound defeat will persuade them of the rightness of our position.
- ❖ **Onomatopoeia**
- ❖ **Hyperbole**: a deliberate, extravagant, and often outrageous exaggeration. It may be used either for serious or comic effect; e.g., The shot that was heard around the world.
- ❖ **Litotes**
Ex: Achieving one's goals is no small feat.
- ❖ **Rhetorical Question** is a question which expects no answer. It is used to draw attention to a point and is generally stronger than a direct statement, e.g., If Mr. Ferchoff is always fair, as you have said, why did he refuse to listen to Mrs. Baldwin's arguments
- ❖ **Irony**: the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning: *the irony of her reply, "How nice!" when I said I had to work all weekend.*

- ❖ **Oxymoron:** a figure of speech by which a locution produces an incongruous, seemingly self-contradictory effect, as in “cruel kindness” or “to make haste slowly.”

✓ **Style**

- ❖ **Journalistic:** of, pertaining to, or characteristic of journalists or journalism
- ❖ **Scholarly:** of, like, or befitting a scholar: *scholarly habits*.
- ❖ **Pedestrian:** a person who goes or travels on foot; walker.
- ❖ **Dignified:** characterized or marked by dignity of aspect or manner; stately; decorous: *dignified conduct*.
- ❖ **Artificial:** lacking naturalness or spontaneity; forced; contrived; feigned: *an artificial smile*.
- ❖ **Sincere:** free of deceit, hypocrisy, or falseness; earnest: *a sincere apology*.
- ❖ **Poetic:** possessing the qualities or charm of poetry: *poetic descriptions of nature*.
- ❖ **Pedantic:** ostentatious in one's learning.
- ❖ **Original:** new; fresh; inventive; novel
- ❖ **Authentic:** not false or copied; genuine; real
- ❖ **Rhythmic:** of, relating to, or characterized by rhythm, as in movement or sound; metrical, periodic, or regularly recurring
- ❖ **Comic:** of, pertaining to, or characterized by comedy
- ❖ **Literary:** pertaining to or of the nature of books and writings, especially those classed as literature
- ❖ **Dramatic:** of or pertaining to the drama
- ❖ **Concrete:** constituting an actual thing or instance; real
- ❖ **Dull:** causing boredom; tedious; uninteresting
- ❖ **Abstract:** expressing a quality or characteristic apart from any specific object or instance
- ❖ **Ornate:** elaborately or sumptuously adorned, often excessively or showily so
- ❖ **Complex:** composed of many interconnected parts; compound; composite

✓ **Diction**

- ❖ **Colloquial:** (conversation/slang) He's Nuts
- ❖ **Monosyllabic:** words with more than one syllable in length
- ❖ **Polysyllabic:** words with more than one syllable in length
- ❖ **Formal:** (academic/literary), He's schizophrenic
- ❖ **Informal:** (personal, conversational) He's Crazy
- ❖ **Archaic:** old-fashioned
- ❖ **Euphonious:** words that are pleasant sounding, e.g. butterfly
- ❖ **Cacophonous:** words that are harsh sounding, e.g., pus
- ❖ **Concrete:** specific words
- ❖ **Abstract:** general words

- ❖ General/specific
- ❖ Technical:
- ❖ Vulgar
- ❖ Insipid
- ❖ Connotative
- ❖ Literal
- ❖ Detached
- ❖ Biblical
- ❖ Emotional
- ❖ Euphemistic
- ❖ Sensuous
- ❖ Pretentious
- ❖ Learned
- ❖ Simple
- ❖ Bombastic
- ❖ Grotesque
- ❖ Moralistic
- ❖ Idiomatic
- ❖ Precise
- ❖ Exact
- ❖ Cultured
- ❖ Picturesque
- ❖ Trite
- ❖ Symbolic