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Rhetorical Devices

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Verbal Irony
Catharsis
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Epigraph

An epigraph is a short quotation or saying at the beginning of a literary text, in which it indicates the theme and/or sets the tone for the remainder of the text.

How to Use It : This rhetorical device can be utilized to support your argument, whether it be through the persuasion of opinion or factual evidence. To sustain your reasoning, epigraphs are more beneficial to the initiation of your argument and its application to the topic, itself.

EXAMPLE

The Great Gatsby

BY

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

Then wear the gold hat, if that will move her;
If you can bounce high, bounce for her too,
Till she cry "Lover, gold-hatted, high-bouncing lover,
I must have you!"

—THOMAS PARKE D'INVILLIERS

Anecdote

An anecdote can be defined as a short and interesting story or an amusing event, which is typically intended to evoke humorous emotions and make the audience or reader laugh.

This rhetorical device can be used to support your claim with the intention of bringing out emotion from your reader/audience (or pathos), which will more than likely persuade them to side with your argument.

WHAT DOES THIS SOUND LIKE?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kggwE_vAdOs



Analogy

This is a similarity between like features of two things, on which a comparison may be based.



Types of Analogies

Part to whole	battery : flashlight :: hard drive : computer
Cause and effect	fatigue : yawning :: itching : scratching
Person to situation	mother : home :: teacher : school
Synonym	obese : fat :: slender : thin
Antonym	poverty : wealth :: sickness : health
Geography	Chicago : Illinois :: Denver : Colorado
Measurement	pound : kilogram :: quart : liter
Time	March : spring :: December : winter

In an argument, similarities are used as a starting point for further similarities that haven't been analyzed.

Cacophony

The term refers to the use of words with sharp, harsh, hissing and unmelodious sounds primarily those of consonants to achieve desired results.

In literature, the unpleasantness of cacophony is utilized by writers to present dreadful or distasteful situations

“And being no stranger to the art of war, I have him a description of cannons, culverins, muskets, carabines, pistols, bullets, powder, swords, bayonets, battles, sieges, retreats, attacks, undermines, countermines, bombardments, sea-fights...”

–Jonathan Swift’s “Gulliver’s Travel”



Ambiguity

Doubtfulness or uncertainty meaning or intention. “Uncertain of a meaning leads into confusion”

Ambiguity is a word, phrase or statement that contains more than one meaning. It's a word or statement in which can lead to confusion. Based on the way it is viewed.

Example:

Nina went to the restroom in the park.

Nina literally can not actually use the restroom in the park, it confuses you.

She cannot live without her heart.

She is talking about someone she really loves or her actual heart.



Camper Van Beethoven Ambiguity

As you can see in the video he starts to sing about how across the nation everyone is getting together which isn't true and everybody in the world can't meet up in one nation together that just cannot happen. Then he repeatedly talks about everything is up in the air this time. We don't know if he was trying to state that stuff started to come out about something that was happening or if he was just seeing something in the air. He was also stating how he had feelings about someone. We don't know who that person is and what type of feelings he had towards this person. He gave an unclear understanding on what he was seeing and how he was feeling about someone.

Antithesis

Antithesis: a person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else.

Antithesis are two opposite ideas put together in a sentence to contrast an effect. An example would be that she say silver, but held out gold. It's contrasting her "saying silver" to "yells out gold". It's emphasizing that she was saying one thing but mean another. Or she acts like a very easy going person on the inside, but a hard person on the outside. It's saying how significant that one girl acts very hard just to cover up how she is very easy going in the inside.



Antithesis in an argument is the comparison of two situations or ideas, using this makes choosing the correct one simpler.

Quiz: Which rhetorical device is being utilized?

Which rhetorical device is being utilized?

- 1.) Battery is to flashlight :: Hard drive is to computer.
- 2.) Chapter 1 : “Show me your friends, and you show me who you are!” -Unknown
- 3.) The other day, I walked home and saw a squirrel running in the middle of the street. He stopped directly in front of a moving SUV. Three seconds later, the little guy was lying flat out on the ground as though he’d been killed. I attempted to save the squirrel. Before I could lay a finger on him, he took off running and then I got ran over by an 18 wheeler! Well, I guess that was my fate. I hope I see the little squirrel in heaven.
- 4.) Although I find joy in serving my country by putting my life on the line and willingly going to war, I find more motivation in the killing, stabbing, cutting shooting, slitting of the throat and finally dissecting the remains of body parts to cook and eat for dinner.
- 5.) Sarah gave a bath to her dog wearing a pink t-shirt.
- 6.) "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." - Martin Luther King, Jr.