

Language Frames

for eXplaining the significance of rhetorical devices

Tone (two different but complementary tones)

- [Author's] tone of _____ and _____ is expressed through _____.
- Speaking in a tone which is both _____ and _____, [Author] conveys _____.
- Sounding _____, yet _____, [author] advocates _____.
- Word Bank: [see Tone Words handout]

Satire

- On the surface, the [author's] tone is _____, but the [his] underlying tone mocks _____.
- [Author] develops a persona of a _____ who _____, but [his] word choice and sarcastic tone undercuts _____.
- By praising _____, [author] develops _____, a view which is contradicted by [his] underlying sarcasm.
- Word Bank: honey & medicine, underlying, undercuts, undermines

Logos

- [Author's] _____ appeals to the audience's logical mind because _____.
- By appealing to reason, [author] is able to _____.
- Word Bank: reason, logic, appropriate

Ethos

- [Author] develops his own ethos as a person who has _____ in order to _____.
- Taking care to establish his ethos, [author] make the audience _____.
- [Author] establishes his credibility as someone who _____ by _____.
- Word Bank: believable, trust, credibility, admiration

Pathos (caution! “pathos” or “emotion” is a blank word!)

- The words _____ evoke a sense of _____.
- [Author] plays upon the audience’s sympathy when he says _____.
- Word Bank: appeal, sympathy

Diction

- “_____” connotes _____.
- The pattern that emerges from the words _____, _____, and _____ is one that _____.
- The cumulative effect of [author’s] _____ diction makes the audience feel _____.
- Word Bank: abstract/concrete, informal/formal, euphemistic

Irony

- Although one might expect _____, the reality is _____.
- Ordinarily one would expect _____, but here _____.

- Word Bank: unexpected, opposite of, disparity between

Allusion

- Just like [event from history], the example of _____ reminds us that _____.
- When [author] alludes to _____, [he/she] brings the same feeling of _____ to bear on _____.
- Word Bank: alludes, recalls

Metaphor / Simile

- By comparing _____ to a _____, [author] suggests _____.
- Word Bank: figuratively,

Symbol

- [Author's] use of _____ as a symbol for _____ lends persuasive appeal because _____.
- Word Bank: stands for, recognizable

Personification

- By personifying _____, [author] suggests that _____ has the same qualities of _____ and _____ as _____.
- Word Bank: human, qualities,

Imagery

- The image of _____ conveys a sense of _____

- Word Bank: sensory, tactile, olfactory, gustatory, visual, sound

Detail

- The impact of [author's] details is _____
- By detailing _____ and _____, [author] creates an image of _____
- Word Bank: detail / absence of detail, enumerate

Juxtaposition

- By juxtaposing _____ with _____ [author] highlights the disparity between _____ and _____.
- Word Bank: pair, bring together, bring back to back

Anecdote

- [Author's] brief anecdote about _____ encapsulates _____
- Word Bank: distills, introduces

Hyperbole

- [Author] exaggerates _____ to such an extent to make it seem _____.
- Word Bank: absurd, humorous, proportion, distort

Counterargument

- [Author] explores the nuances of [topic] by acknowledging _____ while firmly placing [her/himself] on the side of _____.
- Word Bank: concede, refute, sides with, aligns [himself] with

Cumulative Sentence

- Stating the main idea at the outset, [the author] elaborates with [phrases] that _____

Periodic Sentence

- By piling clauses on top of one another before finally resolving the sentence with the words “ _____,” [author] heightens the dramatic tension of _____ and makes the audience feel _____.
- Word Bank: tension, builds, drama, delay

Short vs. Long Sentences

- [Author’s] brief, punchy sentence cuts through _____ and establishes _____.
- [Author’s] form imitates [his] meaning when [he] suggests the simplicity of the solution in a simple sentence of # words.
- Word Bank: brevity, lengthy

Antithesis

- By highlighting _____ which is antithetical to _____, [author] implies _____.
- Word Bank: define, opposite, contrast

Alliteration / Rhyme / Assonance / Consonance / Rhythm

- The [alliterative/rhyming/assonant/consonant/rhythmic] quality of the words “ _____” draws the audience’s attention to _____.

- Word Bank: memorable, resonate,

Repetition

- [Author's] repetition of the [word/phrase] "_____, " emphasizes _____
- Word Bank: repeats, emphasizes, unifies

Parallel Structure / Anaphora

- [Author's] parallel [clauses/phrases] in the words "_____ " highlight _____
- Word Bank: reinforces, draws attention to, similarity, emphasis

Passive Voice / Active Voice

- Using the passive verb "_____, " [author] takes away responsibility from _____.
- Employing the active voice in the verbs "_____ " give the subject a sense of authority about _____.
- Word Bank: agency, responsibility, authority,

Point of View (first person, third person)

- By presenting the text in the first person point of view, [author] creates a sense of _____
- Word Bank: personal, objective, subjective,

Polysyndeton / Asyndeton

- By using multiple conjunctions, [Author] emphasizes _____
- Eschewing conjunctions, [Author] draws attention to _____

- Word Bank: omit

Organization

- By organizing [his] text with _____, [author] creates...
- Word Bank: compare/contrast, narration, chronologically, sequential, inductive/deductive, exemplification, problem/solution, description, cause/effect, circular, flashback/flashforward

Direct Address

- With the words “_____,” [Author] directly addresses [his] audience and asks them to be personally accountable for _____.
- Word Bank: personal, attention

Call to Action

- The words “_____” represent a powerful call to action, as [author] commands _____.
- Word Bank: imperative, command, act, demand

Rhetorical Question

- With the words, “_____?” [author] makes obvious _____.
- Word Bank: calls attention to, casts doubt upon

Understatement

- The real [insert emotion here] of the situation comes through in [author’s] understated words “_____.”

- Word Bank: diminishes, hides

Declarative / Imperative / Interrogative / Exclamatory

- Word Bank: states, commands, questions, inveighs against

Sarcasm

- The words “_____” endorse the view that _____, but the underlying sarcasm suggests that _____.
- Word Bank: sharp, biting, criticizes