

Name _____
Schieffer
Class _____
Date _____

Rhetorical Devices: Public Speaking

1. ALLITERATION: a series of words that begin with the same consonant sound
 - a. Let us go forth to lead the land we love . . . - J. F. Kennedy
 - b. My style is public negotiations for parity, rather than private negotiations for position . . . - Jesse Jackson
 - c. We want no parlay with you and your grisly gang who work your wicked will . . . – Sir Winston Churchill
2. AMPLIFICATION: adding further information to a short sentence or statement to add embellishment
 - a. I know I have but the body of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart of a king, and of a king of England, too. - Queen Elizabeth I
3. ANAPHORA: deliberate repetition of the first part of the sentence for artistic effect
 - a. But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. - Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - b. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground . . . - Abraham Lincoln
 - c. I needed a drink, I needed a lot of life insurance, I needed a vacation, I needed a home in the country. What I had was a coat, a hat and a gun. - from Farewell, My Lovely
4. ANTITHESIS: putting two opposite ideas together in a sentence for a contrasting effect
 - a. We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools. - Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - b. Reasonable men adapt to the world. Unreasonable men adapt the world to themselves. That's why all progress depends on unreasonable men. - George Bernard Shaw
 - c. No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor bastard die for his country. - General George Patton
 - d. That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind. --Neil Armstrong
5. CHIASMUS: two clauses are put together but in reverse word order for an artistic effect
 - a. But just because you're born in the slum does not mean the slum is born in you, and you can rise above it if your mind is made up. - Jesse Jackson
 - b. It's not the men in my life that counts: it's the life in my men. - Mae West
 - c. Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done. - George W. Bush
 - d. The true test is not the speeches the president delivers; it's if the president delivers on the speeches. - Hilary Clinton
 - e. Your manuscript is both good and original; but the part that is good is not original, and the part that is original is not good. - Samuel Johnson

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6. DIACOPE: repetition of a phrase or word broken up by other words in between
 - a. Free at last, free at last; thank God almighty, free at last! - Martin Luther King
 - b. The people everywhere, not just here in Britain, everywhere -- they kept faith with Princess Diana. - Tony Blair
7. HYPOPHORA: when the writer asks a question and then immediately answers it
 - a. When the enemy struck on that June day of 1950, what did America do? It did what it always has done in all its times of peril. It appealed to the heroism of its youth. – General Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - b. 'But there are only three hundred of us,' you object. Three hundred, yes, but men, but armed, but Spartans, but at Thermopylae: I have never seen three hundred so numerous. - Seneca
8. METAPHOR: comparing two unrelated things that share common characteristics (w/o like or as)
 - a. From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. - Sir Winston Churchill
 - b. The torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans. – John F. Kennedy
9. PARALLELISM: use of components in a sentence that are grammatically the same; or similar in construction, sound, meaning, or meter
 - a. Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. - - John F. Kennedy
 - b. We have seen the state of our Union in the endurance of rescuers, working past exhaustion. We've seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers -- in English, Hebrew, and Arabic. - George W. Bush
 - c. Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I will learn. - Benjamin Franklin
10. SIMILE: comparing two unrelated things that share common characteristics using the words "like" or "as"
 - a. My love is like a red, red rose - Robert Burns
 - b. We're going to go through them like crap through a goose. - General George Patton