

Rhetorical Devices in Public Speaking

As you read Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have A Dream" speech, identify where he uses the following common rhetorical devices. Then, consider why he uses each particular device (i.e. What is the desired impact of this device?)

Rhetorical Device	What it is	Where he uses it	Why he uses it (what is the impact?)
ALLITERATION	Repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of several words in a sequence		
ALLUSION	A short reference to a familiar person, place, thing, or event (typically literary, historical, mythological, or Biblical)		
AMPLIFICATION	Repeats a word or expression while adding additional details with each repetition (in order to emphasize)		
ANAPHORA	Repetition of the same word or words at the beginning of successive phrases		
ANASTROPHE	Departure from the normal word order, for emphasis		
ANTITHESIS	Deliberate use of two contrasting ideas for emphasis (a juxtaposition)		

ASYNDETON	Lack of conjunctions (and, so, but, etc.) between words and phrases		
CHIASMUS	Words in one phrase are reversed in the next		
CLIMAX	Arrangement of words and phrases in order of increasing importance		
EXPLETIVE	A word or phrase that interrupts the flow of normal speech in order to emphasize the words next to it		
HYPERBOLE	Deliberate exaggeration (the opposite of MEIOSIS)		
MEIOSIS	Deliberate understatement (the opposite of HYPERBOLE)		
PARALLELISM	Successive words or phrases with the very same grammatical structure		
TRICOLON	The use of words, phrases, examples, sentences in threes.		