

4.02 Rhetoric in Action Worksheet

Remember: Read the 4.02 Lesson prior to completing the assignment.

Part 1: A construction company is on trial for continuing construction on a shopping mall while failing to protect and relocate gopher tortoises. The construction company is being sued by a wildlife protection organization. They claim the construction company ignored state law and endangered a threatened species.

Read the closing argument by the lawyer for the wildlife protection organization.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, thank you for serving your civic duty. We are gathered on this final day of the trial to make sense of Careless Construction's utter disregard for wildlife. In Florida, gopher tortoises have been listed as a protected species for decades. There have been policies and procedures put into place that companies have abided by, so it is highly unlikely that Careless Construction was unaware of the state's guidelines.

¹ **Envision you are a lone tortoise, nestled deep in the peace and comfort of your burrow, surviving off the land you have happily and contentedly lived on for years.** Then, one day, ² **the roar of a bulldozer, like a lion,** disrupts your habitat and throws your life into chaos. You scramble to make sense of the ³ **madness and mayhem, misguidedly making your way to what you believe is safety.** Then, ⁴ **the darkness hugs you tightly in its arms** and you are gone. ⁵ **How is this fair? How is this right?**

Plain and simple—it's not. Careless Construction will tell you they acted responsibly. ⁶ **Oh yes—they were very responsible.** They were responsible for the loss of over a dozen gopher turtles who called Open Prairie their home. They were responsible for ignoring the Florida Wildlife Commission's Rule 68A-27.003, which states that "no person shall take, attempt to take, pursue, hunt, harass, capture, possess, sell or transport any gopher tortoise or parts thereof or their eggs, or molest, damage, or destroy gopher tortoise burrows."

⁷ **In the last 100 years, the gopher tortoise population has declined by 70%, leaving only 700,000 tortoises in the wild. Before you know it,** ⁸ **the species will disappear faster than a Houdini magic trick,** though there is nothing entertaining about this act. And yet Careless Construction made the choice to snub the law. ⁹ **There were millions of other acres—probably billions or trillions of other acres—they** could have chosen for another useless shopping mall, but they chose the precise spot that housed a threatened and helpless creature. What a great choice considering the main reason for the gopher turtles' predicament is habitat loss.

¹⁰ **It is up to you, the jury, to make the right call. The Tortoise Shell Foundation has been protecting this species since 1961. They have relentlessly battled corporations who show no interest in land loss, much less the loss of one or two turtles.** Rest assured—with your help, we will fight to grow the gopher tortoise population. With your decision in favor of wildlife,

gopher tortoises will rise from the ashes like a mythological phoenix. Fight with us, fight for the turtles, and fight against habitat loss.

Part 2: Read the passage again. Each **numbered & bolded excerpt** is a rhetorical device or example of figurative language from the chart below. Paste the sentence that uses the technique, then explain why the technique was used. Be sure to write in full sentences with your best spelling, grammar, and punctuation. [Use this rhetorical devices reference sheet for help!](#)

Rhetorical Device or Figurative Language	Paste the sentence from Part 1 that shows an example.	Explain why that technique was used. What was the effect? How does it convince the jury?
Example: Pathos	<i>We are gathered on this final day of the trial to make sense of Careless Construction's utter disregard for wildlife.</i>	This example would make the jury feel angry about the construction company's carelessness.
Logos		
Pathos		
Ethos		
Irony		
Rhetorical Question		
Alliteration		
Allusion		
Hyperbole		
Personification		
Simile		

04.02 Rubric

(50 points possible)

	On Target	Almost There	Needs Improvement
Rhetorical Appeal, Device, and Figurative Language Identification	20-16 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">Correctly identified rhetorical appeals, devices, and figurative language used in the closing argument and pasted the entire sentence from the passage	15-12 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">Correctly identified some of the rhetorical appeals, devices, and figurative language used in the closing argument and pasted some sentences from the passage	11-0 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">May be missing most or all examples or examples were incorrectly identified
Rhetorical Appeal, Device, and Figurative Language Explanation	30-24 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes a thorough and insightful explanation for each of the appeals, devices, or types of figurative languageNo errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation	23-18 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">May be missing some explanations for the appeals, devices, or types of figurative languageMay have minor errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling	17-0 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">May be missing most or all explanations for the appeals, devices, or types of figurative languageMay have major errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling