

What is Persuasive Language Structures?

Worksheet

Persuasive language structures are rhetorical devices (repetition, parallelism, antithesis, metaphor) that make arguments more compelling and emotionally resonant, helping speakers convince their audience.

Questions

1. Which technique uses repeated words for emphasis?

- A) Antithesis
- B) Repetition
- C) Parallelism
- D) Metaphor

2. Parallelism creates impact by...

- A) Comparing two opposite ideas
- B) Using matching grammatical structure for rhythm
- C) Repeating words
- D) Using vivid metaphors

3. 'Life is a journey; love is a destination.' — which technique?

- A) Repetition
- B) Parallelism
- C) Metaphor
- D) Antithesis

4. Antithesis sharpens argument by...

- A) Using same structure
- B) Contrasting opposing ideas
- C) Repeating key words
- D) Using emotional language

5. Repetition example: 'Non, non, et non! Nous ne capitulerons pas!' (No, no, and no! We will not give up!)

6. Parallelism: 'Il a combattu pour la liberté, pour la justice, pour l'égalité.' (He fought for freedom, for justice, for equality.)

7. Antithesis: 'Nous n'avons rien à perdre que nos chaînes, tout à gagner que notre liberté.' (We have nothing to lose but our chains, everything to gain but our freedom.)

8. Define: What is repetition in persuasive language?

9. Define: What is parallelism?

10. Define: What is antithesis?

Answer Key

1. B) Repetition — Repetition of key words or phrases creates emphasis and makes ideas memorable.
2. B) Using matching grammatical structure for rhythm — Parallelism uses matching sentence structure (three 'pour' clauses, etc.) to create flow and balance.
3. C) Metaphor — Metaphor compares life and love to concrete images (journey, destination) for emotional resonance.
4. B) Contrasting opposing ideas — Antithesis places opposing ideas side-by-side to highlight the stakes and make logic clear.
5. The repetition of 'non' (no) three times creates emphasis and passion. It drums the idea into the listener's mind — unavoidable and powerful. This structure makes the refusal unforgettable.
6. Matching structure (three 'pour' phrases) creates rhythm and balance. The parallel structure makes each idea equally important. Listeners remember the pattern — makes the message stick.
7. The contrast between 'nothing/everything' and 'chains/freedom' highlights the stakes. Antithesis sharpens the argument by showing the opposite sides. The structure makes the logic clear and persuasive.
8. Repeating a key word or phrase to emphasize an idea and make it memorable to the audience.
9. Using the same grammatical structure in successive phrases or clauses to create rhythm, balance, and emphasis.
10. Contrasting two opposing ideas in close proximity to highlight a point and make the argument sharper.

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