

What is Rhetoric?

Worksheet

Rhetoric is the skillful use of language and persuasive techniques — such as anaphora (repeating words at clause beginnings), antithesis (contrasting ideas), and metaphor — to convince or inspire an audience.

Questions

1. 'Whether we rise or fall together' is...
 - A) metaphor
 - B) antithesis
 - C) anaphora
 - D) alliteration
2. Anaphora creates effect by...
 - A) comparing two things
 - B) repeating sounds
 - C) repeating words at start of clauses
 - D) using exaggeration
3. 'Burning bright in the forest of the night' is...
 - A) antithesis
 - B) anaphora
 - C) metaphor
 - D) personification
4. Which technique best persuades through contrast?
 - A) metaphor
 - B) anaphora
 - C) antithesis
 - D) hyperbole
5. Identify anaphora in 'Every morning, every hour, every second — we lose time.'
6. Create antithesis using 'freedom' and 'slavery'.
7. How does metaphor 'the student is a sponge' persuade?
8. Define: What is rhetoric?
9. Define: What is anaphora?
10. Define: What is antithesis?

Answer Key

1. B) antithesis — Two contrasting ideas (rise vs. fall) in parallel structure.
2. C) repeating words at start of clauses — Anaphora is repetition of initial words — 'I came, I saw, I conquered.'
3. D) personification — It attributes human imagination (burning) to a tiger.
4. C) antithesis — Antithesis clarifies position by showing its opposite.
5. Anaphora: 'Every' repeated at the start of each phrase. Effect: Creates rhythm, emphasizes the constant passing of time. Purpose: Persuades listener that time is urgent and precious.
6. Antithesis: 'We choose freedom; we reject slavery.' Contrast: Two opposing concepts in parallel structure. Persuasive power: Clarifies choice and stakes dramatically.
7. Metaphor: directly implies absorption of knowledge. Audience inference: Students learn by absorbing, like sponges absorb water. Persuasive: Makes abstract (learning) concrete and memorable.
8. The art of using language persuasively to convince, influence, or inspire an audience.
9. Repetition of the same word or words at the beginning of successive clauses or sentences.
10. Juxtaposition of contrasting ideas, usually in parallel structure, for emphasis.

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