

“I Have a Dream” rhetorical devices

Directions: In the left column is the name of a rhetorical device and its definition. In the right column I provide an example, and then you'll find one of your own in Dr. King's speech. A copy of the text of the speech can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/press/exhibits/dream-speech.pdf> and the audio of the speech can be heard at <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihadream.htm>

Device & Definition

Alliteration - the recurrence of initial consonant sounds

Allusion - a short, informal reference to a famous person or event

Antithesis - establishes a clear, contrasting relationship between two ideas by joining them together or juxtaposing them, often in parallel structure

Anaphora - is the repetition of the same word or words at the beginning of successive phrases, clauses, or sentences

Metaphor - compares two different things by speaking of one in terms of the other. Unlike a simile or analogy, metaphor asserts that one thing is another thing, not just that one is like another

Example

My example: *the dark and desolate*

Your example:

Mine: *“We hold these truths to be self-evident...”*

Yours:

Mine: *not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character*

Yours:

Mine: *I have a dream...*

Yours:

Mine: *one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.*

Yours: