

# **Stylistic Writing**

**The Space Shuttle "Challenger" Tragedy Address  
Ronald Reagan**

# Sentence structure

“We’ve grown used to wonders in this century. It’s hard to dazzle us. Not for twenty-five years the United States space program has been doing just that. We’ve grown used to to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we’ve only just begun. We’re still pioneers. They, the members of the challenger crew, were pioneers” (Ronald Regan para. 5)

Regan uses a short sentences to make them stand out and important.

# Parallelism

*that special grace, that special spirit (para. 4)*

*Grabs the readers attention and makes them read it again.*

# Punctuation

I want to add that I wish I could talk to every man and woman who works for NASA, or who worked on this mission and tell them: "Your dedication and professionalism have moved and impressed us for decades. And we know of your anguish. We share it."(para. 9)

the colon lets the reader pause and know that a quote or list is to follow.

# Metaphor

“To touch the face of God” (para. 11 ).

Comparing touching the face to god without using like or as.

# Simile

Well, today, we can say of the Challenger crew: Their dedication was, like Drake's, complete. (para. 10)

Comparing their dedication to Drake's using like.

# Analogy

There's a coincidence today. On this day three hundred and ninety years ago, the great explorer Sir Francis Drake died aboard ship off the coast of Panama. In his lifetime the great frontiers were the oceans, and a historian later said, "He lived by the sea, died on it, and was buried in it." Well, today, we can say of the Challenger crew: Their dedication was, like Drake's, complete.  
(para. 10)

it tells a story to compare this day in history to the day the speech was given.

# Signifying

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility -- I welcome it. (Kennedy para. 25)

There's only been a few generations that could handle defending freedom, then there has been some that has. JFK is saying that our generation can handle defending freedom.



# Antithesis

All this will not be finished in the first **one hundred days**. Nor will it be finished in the first **one thousand days**; nor in the **life of this Administration**; nor even perhaps in our **lifetime on this planet**. But let us begin. (Kennedy para. 21)

Its saying that the first 100 days is nothing compared to the our lifetime on this planet.

# Hyperbole

touch the face of *God* (para. 11)

exaggerates the sentence to make a point.

# Understatement

slipped the surly bonds of earth (para. 11)

under exaggerates in order to down play what happened.

# Rhetorical Question

Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? (John F. Kennedy para. 23)

the question is asked because every American has the same answer and it rallies them behind their new president.

# Antonomasia

Nothing ends here; our hopes and our journeys continue (para. 8)  
it talks about one thing and then switches and takes a new stance.

# Anaphora

It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons.(para. 6)

they both start the same which emphasizes its importance but one builds on the other.

# Irony

In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course.(John F. Kennedy para. 21)

this is ironic since he is saying that the people determine the success or failure when the people all look at the president when anything goes right or wrong.

# Reversed Structure

Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate.

(John F. Kennedy para. 14)

it switches the structure in order to say the same thing twice and make it important.



# Bibliography

"American Rhetoric: Ronald Reagan -- Address to the Nation on The Space Shuttle"Challenger" Disaster." *American Rhetoric: Ronald Reagan -- Address to the Nation on The Space Shuttle" Challenger" Disaster*. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Nov. 2013.

"John F. Kennedy -- Inaugural Address." *John F. Kennedy -- Inaugural Address*. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Nov. 2013