

Style in Arguments

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Sentence Structure

“On July 16, 1945, the United States set off the world’s first atomic explosion” (Eisenhower para. 11).

-This short paragraph was surrounded by long paragraphs before and after it. The short sentence, shows the importance of the words. The atomic explosion was set off on this date, and it is more significant in the paper. Eisenhower was telling us when the United States set this bomb off.

Parallelism

“The ratios of contributions, the procedures, and other details would properly be within the scope of the “private conversations” I have referred to earlier” (Eisenhower para. 41).

-Eisenhower puts the words into the same tense (contributions, procedures, conversations). This keeps the time in the right place, it helps the reader understand what is going on. It also helps the readers/ audience understand what is going on that Eisenhower is talking about.

Punctuation

“I therefore decided that this occasion warranted my saying to you some of the things that have been on the minds and hearts of my legislative and executive associates, and on mine, for a gret many months -- thoughts I had originally planned to say primarily to the American people”(Eisenhower para.6).

-The (--) in this speech causes a pause when you are reading or listening to the speech. It is separating the facts he says, from the thoughts he has about the same subject. He is also clarifying how he feels about the statements.

Metaphor

“...as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom”(King Jr para.9).

-Martin Luther King Jr. is comparing the destiny of others, to his, the freedom of others to his, all without using like or as. This makes the speech more pathos based, making the audience feel the emotions, including them into the problem that King Jr. addresses.

Simile

“Atomic bombs today are more than twenty-five times as powerful as the weapons with which the atomic age dawned, while hydrogen weapons are in the ranges of millions of tons of TNT equivalent” (Eisenhower para. 12).

-The simile here just helps the reader/ audience see how much of a difference there is between the power of an atomic bombs and the power of other TNT or weapons.

Analogy

“Atomic bombs today are more than twenty-five times as powerful as the weapons with which the atomic age dawned, while hydrogen weapons are in the ranges of millions of tons of TNT equivalent” (Eisenhower para.12).

-In this speech about the Atomic Bomb, they are trying to compare the atomic bomb to the hydrogen weapons that were being used around that time.

Signifying

“The Soviet Union has informed us that, over recent years, it has devoted extensive resources to atomic weapons. During this period the Soviet Union has exploded a series of atomic devices -- devices, including at least one involving thermo-nuclear reactions. If at one time the United States possessed what might have been called a monopoly of atomic power, that monopoly ceased to exist several years ago”(Eisenhower para.19).

-This is signifying because Eisenhower is talking about how the Soviet Union is doing something bad and how Americans need to be aware of this.

Hyperbole

“Today, the United States stockpile of atomic weapons, which, of course, increases daily, exceeds by many times the total [explosive] equivalent of the total of all bombs and all shells that came from every plane and every gun in every theatre of war in all the years of World War II”(Eisenhower para.13).

-This is Hyperbole because its saying that this total came from every single plane, every single gun, every single, war theatre, etc.

Understatement

“This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned”(King Jr. para. 4).

This is saying that only certain people are worried about colored people having their right when everyone should be worried about them having their rights.

Rhetorical Question

“...here are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality”(King Jr. para.13).

-He is asking a question in his speech, that is clarifying that we will never be satisfied by the choices people make in the world. He does not expect the audience to answer his question, he just states the question to get the audience to start thinking of possible answers.

Antonomasia

“I feel impelled to speak today in a language that in a sense is new, one which I, who have spent so much of my life in the military profession, would have preferred never to use. That new language is the language of atomic warfare” (Eisenhower para.8).

-Eisenhower uses antonomasia in his speech when he implies that Atomic warfare is a “language” that he is familiar with. He said that he prefers not to use that language. Thus he prefers not to use Atomic Warfare.

Irony

“The secret is also known by the Soviet Union”
(Eisenhower para. 17).

-The definition of secret is something that no one is supposed to know about but ironically the Soviet Union knows our secret.

Antithesis

“My country wants to be constructive, not destructive”(Eisenhower para.25).

-Eisenhower emphasized the word constructive but placing the word with the opposite meaning in the same sentence.

Anaphora

“Today, the United States stockpile of atomic weapons, which, of course, increases daily, exceeds by many times the total [explosive] equivalent of the total of **all** bombs and **all** shells that came from **every** plane and **every** gun in **every** theatre of war in all the years of World War II” (Eisenhower para. 13).

-By using repetition, Eisenhower shows how strong his point is by using the words “all” and “every” repeatedly.

Reversed Structure

“Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice.”(King Jr. para.2).

-Dr. King speaks a little bit backwards, instead of stating “we signed the Emancipation Proclamation” he gives background information before stating the simple sentence, the most important part that everyone wants to know. He wrote the sentence like past, leading to what happened, instead of just saying what happened in the future.

Bibliography

Eisenhower, Dwight. “Atoms for Peace.” *American Rhetoric: Top 100 Speeches*. 8 Dec. 1953. Web. 4 Nov. 2013.

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