

Sentence Structure

"Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack." (Roosevelt, Franklin Delano).

This sentence structure helps by using the small sentence then going to the big sentence which explains the small sentence.

Analogy

"Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.' But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt" (King Junior, Martin Luther).

Martin Luther King Junior compares the African American race to a "bad check" and calling them insufficient funds, stating that his race is not good enough.

Parallelism

"The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation"(Roosevelt, Franklin Delano).

Why it helps:

He is using repetition in words sentence structure making this parallelism. It makes it easier to understand and more emotional.

Signifying

"We've got thousands and thousands of clergy. You're the first politician who has ever made it."

Reagan is indirectly saying that politicians are immoral compared to the clergy. He is trying to open up to his audience by telling them a joke and actually making fun of himself in a way. He is making a connection with the audience because most of them are part of the clergy so they can relate directly to this story. (Reagan)

Antithesis

"Well, the trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant; it's just that they know so much that isn't so."

It helps in the speech because just knowing so much does not make you an ignorant person. (Reagan)

Antonomasia

"If you do not see **this killer** stalking your children, look again." (Fisher)

This is an effective use of antonomasia because Fisher is talking about how HIV and AIDS is a killer among every human being and it is a risk to every human being. If she didn't refer to HIV and AIDS as a killer, we wouldn't know just how dangerous it is.

Anaphora

- "I have a dream today!"

Martin Luther King constantly repeats "I have a dream" telling people about how he wants to see the world and is persuading the people to stand beside him in his fight for equality.

Metaphor

"If you do not see this killer stalking your children, look again."

She is saying that no one is safe from AIDS. Just because you think that you will never get it, doesn't make that true. Even your children are susceptible to getting AIDS. (Fisher)

Irony

"All men are created equal," "government by consent of the governed,"

This man does not know what he is talking about. During that time period the blacks and whites were treated different. More white people had advantages than black people. The government did not treat them equally. (Johnson)

Hyperbole

"I have a dream that 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" and "Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood." (King)

This quote is a hyperbole because Mr. King is using the word "sweltering" and saying that injustice and oppression are uncomfortably hot. Which is an extreme exaggeration because neither of those two words can be "hot" in temperature.

Simile

"Whatever our role as parent or policymaker, **we must act as eloquently as we speak**--else we have no integrity."

The importance of this simile in Mary Fisher's speech, is that unless parents or policy makers are extremely persuasive in telling adults and children that having HIV is not something to be ashamed of, they will be caught in their lies.

Rhetorical Question

"When will you be satisfied?"

After this he goes on to say that we can never be satisfied if Negroes are not treated equally. He says we will not be satisfied until "justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream." (King)

Punctuation

"The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny."

Using correct punctuation it influences his speech because you would not want to read something or hear something with incorrect grammar. By using incorrect grammar Mr. King would have sounded like he wasn't qualified to give this speech, which effects his credibility.

Understatement

"And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual."

By Mr. King saying this, it effects his whole speech by him clearing saying that change doesn't happen; the black community is not just going to sit down and embrace the injustice any longer, instead they will rebel.

Citations

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