Examples of Rhetorical Devices

A [rhetorical](http://www.yourdictionary.com/rhetorical) device uses words in a certain way to convey meaning or to persuade. It can also be a technique to evoke an emotion on the part of the reader or audience.

Rhetorical Devices in Writing

Here are examples of rhetorical devices with a definition and an example:

* Alliteration - the recurrence of initial consonant sounds - rubber baby buggy bumpers
* Allusion - a reference to an event, literary work or person - I can’t do that because I am not Superman.
* Amplification - repeats a word or expression for emphasis - Love, real love, takes time.
* Analogy - compares two different things that have some similar characteristics - He is flaky as a snowstorm.
* Anaphora - repeats a word or phrase in successive phrases - "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh?” (Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare)
* Antanagoge - places a criticism and compliment together to lessen the impact - The car is not pretty but it runs great.
* Antimetabole - repeats words or phrases in reverse order - “ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.” (J F Kennedy)
* Antiphrasis - uses a word with an opposite meaning - The Chihuahua was named Goliath.
* Antithesis - makes a connection between two things - “That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” (Neil Armstrong)
* Appositive - places a noun or phrase next to another noun for descriptive purposes - Mary, queen of the land, hosted the ball.
* Enumeratio - makes a point with details - Renovation included a spa, tennis court, pool and lounge.
* Epanalepsis - repeats something from the beginning of a sentence at the end - My ears heard what you said but I couldn’t believe my ears.
* Epithet - using an adjective or adjective phrase to describe - mesmerizing eyes
* Epizeuxis - repeats one word for emphasis - The amusement park was fun, fun, fun.
* Hyperbole - an exaggeration - I have done this a thousand times.
* Litotes - makes an understatement by denying the opposite of a word that may have been used - The terms of the contract are not disagreeable to me.
* Metanoia - corrects or qualifies a statement - You are the most beautiful woman in this town, nay the entire world.
* Metaphor - compares two things by stating one is the other - The eyes are the windows of the soul.
* Metonymy - a metaphor where something being compared is referred to by something closely associated with it - The knights are loyal to the crown.
* Onomatopoeia - words that imitate the sound they describe - plunk, whiz, pop
* Oxymoron - a two word paradox - near miss, seriously funny
* Parallelism - uses words or phrases with a similar structure - I went to the store, parked the car and bought a pizza.
* Simile - compares one object to another - He smokes like a chimney.
* Understatement - makes an idea less important that it really is - The hurricane disrupted traffic.

Other devices used in speeches to help make a point

Rhythm, weaving narratives/stories, cyclical nature, flow