

Telltale Techniques

Rhetorical Devices

Rhetorical devices call attention to and strengthen ideas. You will be reviewing the Gettysburg Address to look for two types of rhetorical devices: contrasts and triads.

Contrasts

Contrast: when the writer or speaker puts two opposite ideas into one thought.

- “To be or not to be . . .” William Shakespeare’s Hamlet
- “The best means of insuring peace is to be prepared for war.” Alexander Hamilton
- “Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.” Mohammad Ali

Find examples of contrasts in the Gettysburg Address.

Traids

Triad: when the writer or speaker repeats three related thoughts, usually using similar grammar.

- Hear no evil, See no evil, Speak no evil”
- “Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” Declaration of Independence
- “Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” Sir Winston Churchill

Find examples of triads in the Gettysburg Address.