

Honors English 2: Literary/Rhetorical Analysis



General Information

In many ways, the study of rhetoric and literature involves the study of a new language, one full of complex and often confusing terms. Knowledge of this technical jargon serves to keep college professors employed and AP test readers interested, but one cannot overlook the importance of knowing and being able to successfully use this specialized language. Your task for the rest of the year will be to define, identify, and contextually explain the terms as you encounter them in your reading. In essence, you will be creating a glossary for easy study and reference.

Assignment Details

- The next page contains a sample paper. Your paper should be no more than one page, but completely answer all three parts of the assignment.
- Each entry is worth up to 50 points. No late work will be accepted.
- You are responsible for keeping all of your device papers until the end of the year. We will be doing approximately 8 during the course of the year.
- There template files online you can download to complete the assignment.
- Since these assignments are so short, you need to be very precise in your work.
 - Eliminate grammar, usage and spelling issues.
 - Maintain a consistent use of tense and active voice.

Terms You Can Use

Allusion

Analogy

Anaphora

Antithesis

Aphorism

Epistrophe

Hyperbole

Imagery

Irony

Juxtaposition

Metaphor

Irony

Tone

Hypophora

Rhetorical Question

Prolepsis

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Metaphor

Definition	a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.
Example	Disembodiment. The demon that pushed the middle-class black survivors into aggressive passivity, our conversation restrained in public quarters, our best manners on display, our hands never out of pockets, our whole manner ordered as if to say, ‘I make no sudden moves.’—Between the World and Me, pg. 114
Function	<u>In this section of the book, Coates is discussing the reaction of the mother of a murdered young black boy and her desire to remind people that people of color have value, that they matter, and they have the right to their identities.</u>
Context	<u>His passage on “disembodiment” relies on the metaphor of a “demon” that forced middle class people of color who had escaped the inner city to not live life in control of their own bodies. Coates makes the metaphorical comparison to a demon to illustrate both that the behavior of these “survivors” was something beyond their control and understanding and that it was sinful to force them to lead their lives as not fully independent humans capable of controlling their own lives if they wanted to remain safe. In effect, he argues that these survivors in the black middle class are possessed by the fears that keep them from fully realizing their potential. This metaphor about the impact of disembodiment builds on a central theme of Between the World and Me: that to be black in the United States means that your body is always in danger. Whether discussing slavery, police violence against people of color, or even the simple act of being a black parent, Coates argues that the black body—with all its potential and life force—can be destroyed with cruel purpose or on a whim.</u>
Concept	
Connection	

The Function portion of your piece is both the most important and most difficult. Divide this section into three portions (The 3 Cs) and it should come pretty easily.

- Context- This sets up the text portion you are about to discuss. In other words, you need to BRIEFLY introduce the general circumstances in your example.
- Concept- What is the device that you are addressing? Write in consistent tense and use the active voice (i.e. “This symbolizes the...”) when referring to the rhetorical device. Make certain you discuss it directly and emphasize how it functions in detail. Merely saying that it “draws attention” or “emphasizes” a point is insufficient.
- Connection- Discuss in clear and specific terms exactly how the device contributes to the passage as a whole. In other words, how does the device reinforce what is occurring in the larger context.