**Basic Rhetorical Devices**

**Anaphora = repetition of the same words or phrases in the beginning of a sentence.**

**Example:**

**A day in the sun**

**A day in peace**

**A day where we will all be free**

**Allusion = a reference to previous literary works (like the bible), famous people, places or events.**

**Example:**

**As Martin Luther King pointed out in his famous speech “I Have a Dream”: “we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt”**

**Anchoring arguments to true statements = the author references events or statements which are accepted as undisputed truths to strengthen his/her own credibility/ethos.**

**Example:**

**World War II ended in 1945, but many other wars have come since that time.**

**Call to action = clearly stated actions that ask the audience to do something.**

**Example:**

**Get up. Get an education and do something with your life. Let’s show them we can change the world.**

**Contrast/antithesis = highlighting the differences between two or more things, usually to emphasize the difference between something positive and negative.**

**Example:**

**There is the false way and the true way and we follow the true way.**

**Epistrophe = using the same words or phrases to end a series of sentences.**

**Example:**

**This nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. *—***[***Abraham Lincoln***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln) ***in the*** [***Gettysburg Address***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gettysburg_Address)

**Inclusive language = a way to include the listeners and bridge the gap between the speaker and his/ her audience, typically by using pronouns such as “we”, “us” and “our” and phrases that signal a common bond: my fellow Trinidadians etc.**

**Example:**

**We need to gather strength and move on.**

**Metaphor = A metaphor is a** [**figure of speech**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Figure_of_speech) **that refers to one thing by mentioning another thing. A metaphor is often defined as a hidden comparison (without like or as) with a tenor (the thing or concept that is described) and a vehicle (the thing or concept that is used to described the tenor).**

**Example:**

**Love (tenor) is the light (vehicle) that shines in the dark.**

**Repetition = repeating the same word or key phrase for emphasis**

**Example:**

**Freedom for you. Freedom for me. Freedom for everyone.**

**Simile = a comparison with like or as.**

**Example:**

**Politics is like a boat that floats in many different directions.**

**Triads = the rule of three. Structuring you sentences in a repetitive three-part structure.**

**Example:**

**Caring about other people means that you’re doing a difference:**

**It means that you acknowledge that you’re not the center of the world.**

**It means that you acknowledge that the world is not perfect and we still have things to change.**

**It means that you acknowledge that not all people had the opportunities you had.**

**Alliteration = a string of words that start with the same consonant sound**

**Example: The sound of silence is in the air.**