

Figures of Speech Glossary: Writing with Purpose

1) Starting line (individual activity): Take stock of your prior knowledge with this quiz.



Write your score here: _____

Indicate the level of difficulty (out of 5; 5 = so difficult that it was impossible to do): ____

What went well? _____

What did you find challenging? _____

2) Let's define and classify the different figures of speech.

a) Definition : What are they? What are they used for?

In literature and writing, a figure of speech (also called stylistic device or rhetorical device) is the use of any of a variety of techniques to give an additional and/or supplemental meaning, idea, or feeling.

Stylistic devices often provide emphasis, freshness of expression, or clarity.¹

b) Classification: How can they be categorized and sub-categorized?

Figures of speech consist of two categories: schemes and tropes.

Schemes and tropes use language in an unusual or "figured" way.²

- A trope is an artful deviation from the ordinary or principal signification of a word.²

Ex: "I work like a slave."

Type of figure of speech: trope.

Name of figure of speech (element of tone): simile.

Effect of this figure of speech on the reader (mood): The simile enhances the speaker's distress, due to his/her being overworked. Consequently, the reader feels pity for him/her.

Tropes can be sub-categorized in 5 “families” ²:

- Reference to one thing as another (e.g simile, metaphor, personification...)
- Wordplay and puns (e.g antanaclasis, onomatopoeia, paronomasia (=pun)...))
- Substitutions (e.g periphrasis, anthimeria...)
- Overstatement / Understatement (e.g hyperbole, litotes...)
- Semantic inversions (e.g rhetorical question, irony, oxymoron...)

- A scheme is an artful deviation from the ordinary arrangement of words (syntax, sounds).²

Ex: “The general who became a slave. The slave who became a gladiator. The gladiator who defied an emperor. Striking story!” (“Gladiator” movie, David Franzoni)³

Type of figure of speech: scheme.

Name of the figure of speech (element of tone): anadiplosis.

Effect of this figure of speech on the reader (mood): the anadiplosis repeats a word in quick succession, in successive clauses, in order to add emphasis to the main idea: a general is sold as a slave, who then had to work as a gladiator to make himself known in the arena and then defy the emperor. Consequently, the reader is impressed by the general’s determination and ability to bounce back quickly.

Schemes can be sub-categorized in 4 “families” ²:

- Structures of balance (e.g gradation, parallelism, antithesis...)
- Change in word order (e.g parenthesis, hyperbaton...)
- Omission (e.g ellipsis, asyndeton, polysyndeton...)
- Repetition (e.g anaphora, alliteration, assonance...)

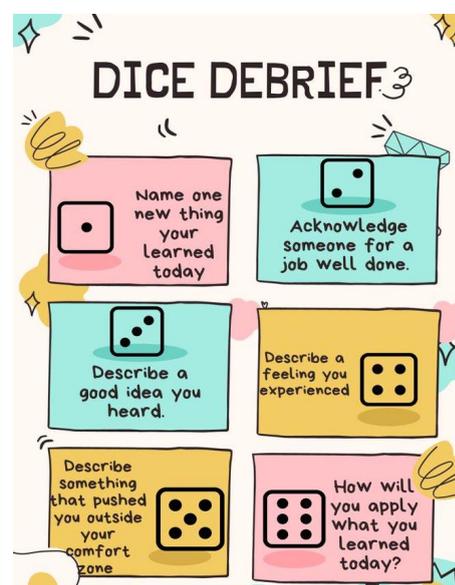
3) Pit Stop (pair work) : How well can you explain what you’ve learned?

Directions: With a classmate, play “Taboo”. Choose a card (blue : higher intermediate level, red : advanced level) and make a classmate guess the word on the card without saying the “taboo” words listed below the word. You score a point every time you succeed. Then, change roles. When you are done, create your own card(s) and keep playing!

4) Let's practice with a selection of games. Once you have played game 1, write down the figures of speech that are new to you (element of tone), as well as their effect on the reader (mood).

<p>Game 1 directions: Click on the figure of speech corresponding to the example given.</p> <p>The more correct answers you give, the more snowballs you can throw.</p> 	
New figures of speech (elements of tone)	Effect of the figure of speech on the reader (mood)
<p>Game 2 directions: Some surgical procedures have invaded the list of figures of speech! Click on the surgical procedures to get rid of them.</p> 	
<p>Other games directions: The QR code redirects you to a literary devices games homepage. Follow the directions of the games you choose.</p> 	

5) Finish line (class activity): What do you remember from today's lesson? Roll the die and do what the number of points on the die says, using the Dice Debrief sheet.



¹Source: definition retrieved from <https://www.myenglishpages.com/english/writing-stylistics.php>

²Source: definitions retrieved from <https://excellence-in-literature.com/figures-speech-schemes-tropes/>

³Source: example retrieved from <https://literarydevices.net/anadiplosis/>

⁴Source: template created by Stephanie Howell <https://twitter.com/mrshowell24/status/1431027850623205382?s=20>

6) Create your own collection of figures of speech, using the template below (the last line is optional). You may use a different color in each line.

Write the name of the figure of speech here
Write its definition here
Quote the segment of text where it appears (+ source) here
Explain the effect of the figure of speech (on the reader) in the segment of text quoted
Optional: Draw a representation of the figure of speech

Pay attention to the category (trope or scheme) and subcategory your figure of speech belongs to.

Update your collection every time you identify a new figure of speech in a written document. You may expand the list by adding extra sheets (if so, draw the tables yourself).

You may find a great variety of figures of speech lists online, which provide definitions

and examples of figures of speech. You may use this one:



Do not forget that stylistic devices are not used in the English language exclusively: make connections with your French/Humanities class contents to expand your knowledge!

Tropes
Reference to one thing as another

Tropes
Wordplay and Puns

Tropes
Substitutions

Tropes
Overstatement / Understatement

Tropes
Semantic inversions

Schemes
Structures of balance

Schemes
Change in word order

Schemes
Omission

Schemes
Repetition

