

Directions: Read the quotations below and respond to the questions that follow. When applicable, identify and explain the effects of any syntax-based rhetorical devices in your discussion. Your responses must be in complete sentences and include evidence to support your analysis.

1. *"We should not forget that it will be just as important to our descendants to be prosperous in their time as it is to us to be prosperous in our time."* —Theodore Roosevelt

a. **What is the effect of the phrases "*prosperous in their time*" and "*prosperous in our time*"?**

These two phrases give out a repetitive effect. Through this, greater emphasis, through parallel structure, is placed on the message, allowing it to have a much larger impact on the audience.

As well, this allows them to receive it a much more thoughtful way.

b. **Explain how it would change the effectiveness if Roosevelt had said, "*We should not forget that it will be just as important to our descendants to be prosperous in their time as it is to us now.*"**

If Roosevelt had said this instead, it would not have the same effectiveness; as this statement would come across as bland and plain to the audience. Without that parallel structure, there would not be as much emphasis placed on his message, further making it less appealing and not leaving much of an impact on the audience.

2. *"While we do these things, these deeply momentous things, let us be very clear, and make very clear to all the world what our motives and our objects are."* —Woodrow Wilson

a. **What is the purpose of placing the main clause ("*...let us be very clear, and make very clear to all the world what our motives and our objects are.*") at the end of the sentence?**

By placing this clause at the end, Wilson is able to create a build-up effect to his main point, creating anticipation and adding greater emphasis to what is going to be said.

b. **Explain how it would change the effectiveness if Wilson had said, "*Let us be and make our motives and objects clear to all the world while we do these deeply momentous things.*"**

This change would remove the suspenseful build-up that is triggered in the original sentence, removing the anticipation felt by the audience. Therefore, there would not be as much emphasis, resulting in there not being as much of an impact on the audience.

3. *"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time—a tremendous whack."* —Winston Churchill

a. **What is the effect of sentences 2-5?**

Through the use of short sentences here, Churchill comes across as direct and blunt. This makes it easier to grab the audience's attention much quicker, alluring them as to what he is saying.

- b. Explain how the effect on the audience would be different if Churchill had said, *“If you have an important point to make, don’t try to be subtle or clever; use a pile driver to hit the point once, then come back and hit it again, and hit it a third time—a tremendous whack.”*

This change would remove the use of short sentences, therefore not grabbing the audience’s attention as quickly. As well, he would not sound as direct and blunt like he did before, instead potentially coming across as dull and boring.

4. *“Never in the history of this nation have the people been so forceful in reversing the policy of our government in regard to war. We are indeed on the threshold of a new day for the peacemakers.”* —Coretta Scott King

- a. What is King’s primary emphasis—the people’s force in reversing policy OR the new day for peacemakers?

The primary emphasis here is the new day for peacemakers. King states *“never in the history of this nation,”* implies that historic change is occurring. Furthermore, this captivates the audience to want to hear more, and to hear what groundbreaking change is happening.

- b. Explain how the meaning and effect would be different if King had said, *“We are indeed on the threshold of a new day for the peacemakers. Never in the history of this nation have the people been so forceful in reversing the policy of our government in regard to war.”*

In this instance, the statement *“Never in the history of this nation”* would not be at the beginning, instead putting it further behind. Because of this, there is no anticipation, and the audience does not question what is going on. This does not have as much of an exciting effect, and makes it sound tiresome.

5. *“Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.”* —Jane Goodall

- a. What is the effect of using short, declarative sentences?

Short and declarative sentences are highly useful in giving a direct and blunt tone, as well as speeding up the pace of the message. This further helps to grab the audience’s attention, and to keep them engaged.

- b. Explain how it would change the effectiveness if Goodall had said, *“Every individual matters, has a role to play, and makes a difference.”*

By combining the three sentences together into one, it would not create the effect that short sentences do a great job of achieving. Instead of coming across as blunt and direct, and capturing the audience’s attention, it would potentially come across as longer and more boring. Specifically in this case, there would no longer be any repetition in each sentence, which would help to further capture the attention of the audience.