

BASIC SCHEMES

As with tropes, there are other kinds of ornaments which can help a piece of writing to seem much more persuasive and/or aesthetically pleasing.

The next type of ornament is called a scheme.

Schemes are usually concerned with the ideas of repetition, balancing of concepts, word order, and addition/omission.

Several different types of schemes exist (you may recognize a few):

ANAPHORA

Is deliberate repetition found at the beginning of successive clauses

EX: We live in a great state. We live in a great nation. We live in the United States of America.

EPISTROPHE

Is deliberate repetition found at the end of successive clauses

EX: I was not there on that night. I could not have been there on that night. I would seem illogical to consider me there on that night.

EX: I have a friend who dates guys and then throws them away. Why would you date guys and throw them away?

POLYPTOTON

Is the repetition of a word using its different roots or related forms

EX: The runner went running on the run.

EX: Mary smiled at John who was smiling at her smile.

ALLITERATION

Is the repetition of consonant letters at the beginning of successive words

EX: The cat cradled its claw on the couch.

EX: She ate the succulent strawberry shortcake with super sweet sauce.

ANTITHESIS

Is the intentional use of opposing words, phrases, clauses, or concepts in close proximity to each another

EX: Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.

EX: That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.

POLYSYNDETON

Using multiple conjunctions between clauses or words (to appear to slow the reader down)

EX: We went to the party last night and I saw Lauren and Hugo and Rick and Jeff and Maggie and Jill and Jake and Robert and Jim, and I could not believe that I also saw Mark and Mike and Scott and many others and Jim and Scott and the other Mike.

ASYNDETON

Is the deliberate absence of conjunctions between clauses or words (often appearing to speed up the reading)

EX: We came; we saw; we conquered.

STRATEGIC REPETITION

Whenever an author repeats words, phrases, or clauses deliberately, regardless of its configuration, length, or placement, we normally consider this a scheme.