Rhetoric Lesson Plans 7

**Climax pp. 103-105**

"**In the beginning was the Word**, and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God**."

-- John 1:1-2 (KJV)

**“I would go on, even to the great heyday of the Roman Empire. And I would see developments around there, through various emperors and leaders. But I wouldn't stop there.**

**I would even come up to the day of the Renaissance, and get a quick picture of all that the Renaissance did for the cultural and aesthetic life of man. But I wouldn't stop there.**

**I would even go by the way that the man for whom I am named had his habitat. And I would watch Martin Luther as he tacked his ninety-five theses on the door at the church of Wittenberg. But I wouldn't stop there. –Martin Luther King Jr.- “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop”**

Here, King uses climax by increasing the importance of his words as he continues to speak. By continuing to add more in each paragraph, he keeps the audience interested and also excited to hear what else he is going to do. He continues to say “but I wouldn’t stop there.” By saying this and adding more details, he builds intensity in his words, which impact the reader on a deeper level.

**Rhetorical Question**

"Sir, at long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

-- Joseph Welch, [The Army-McCarthy Hearings](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/welch-mccarthy.html)

* "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" - From Shakespeare's Sonnet No.18.
* If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? - From 'The Merchant of Venice' by Shakespeare.

**Hypophora exercise p. 29**

When the enemy struck on that June day of 1950, what did America do**?** It did what it always has done in all its times of peril. It appealed to the heroism of its youth."

 -- Dwight D. Eisenhower, *I Shall Go to Korea Address*

* What makes a king out of a slave? Courage! What makes the flag on the mast to wave? Courage! What makes the elephant charge his tusk in the misty mist, or the dusky dusk? What makes the muskrat guard his musk? Courage!"  
  (The Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, 1939)
* "Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't."  
  (Pete Seeger in *Loose Talk*, ed. by Linda Botts, 1980)
* "You ask, what is our policy? I will say it is to wage war, by sea, land, and air, with all our might and all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalog of human crime. That is our policy.  
    
  "You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory. Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror; victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory, there is no survival."  
  (Winston Churchill, 13 May 1940)

**Hypotaxis**

"Let the reader be introduced to Joan Didion, upon whose character and doings much will depend of whatever interest these pages may have, as she sits at her writing table in her own room in her own house on Welbeck Street."  
(Joan Didion, *Democracy*, 1984)

* "When I was around nine or ten I wrote a play which was directed by a young, white schoolteacher, a woman, who then took an interest in me, and gave me books to read, and, in order to corroborate my theatrical bent, decided to take me to see what she somewhat tactlessly referred to as 'real' plays."  
  (James Baldwin, ["Notes of a Native Son,"](http://grammar.about.com/od/shortpassagesforanalysis/a/baldwinnotes07.htm) 1955)
* "After the lions had returned to their cages, creeping angrily through the chutes, a little bunch of us drifted away and into an open doorway nearby, where we stood for a while in semi-darkness watching a big brown circus horse go harumphing around the practice ring."  
  (E. B. White, "The Ring of Time")

Metabasis exercise on page 128-129