

## STUDENT HANDOUT: WRITING DEVICES

WRITING TECHNIQUE	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLE	EFFECT UPON THE READER
Personification	An object which is given the qualities of a person	The trees reached out their branches	Develops empathy by making the topic personal and bringing it to life
Rhetorical question	A question that isn't asked to be answered	Why is it that the sparrow should behave like this?	Makes the reader think, engages the reader to consider the topic more deeply
Anecdote	Personal stories that support an argument or point	When I was a teenager I would think nothing of walking 3 miles into the town centre...	Backs up a point or argument with personal information. Makes the argument or point more believable and authentic as personal evidence is provided – it happened to them and gives more credibility to the argument.
Simile/metaphor	Making a comparison	The room was hushed, like the deer in the woods being preyed on by the archer (simile) The mammoth obelisk penetrated the sky	Provides a visual image of the point, person or place. Enables the reader to visualise the point. Makes the information more authentic and real.
Adjective	A word describing a noun ( a thing or person)	It was a treacherous journey	Brings information to life with description, enabling the reader to visualise it. Paints a picture for the



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Access-Achieve-Empower

			reader to understand and follow the information more readily.
Repetition	A word or phrase written more than once	Peter was always smiling, always happy...	The emphasis of the point makes it appear more important than other points. Makes the point stand out from the others.
Opinion	Personal views which cannot be proved	It is my opinion that the obligatory school age should not begin until age 7	The reader can choose to accept or reject the opinion. In so doing they are engaging with the information provided and are being drawn into the debate.
Emotive language	Language that is meant to appeal to your emotions	The day she left was devastating and broke her heart in two.	Draws upon the emotions of the reader, making the reader empathetic with the character. Brings the story to life.
Alliteration	A repeated consonant sound	The casket clicked with a sharp crack	Draws the reader into the text through a subtle means. Creates atmosphere and tone.
Fact	Things that can be proved	20 per cent of the country agrees that boys should be able to wear shorts in school	Backs up an argument with concrete evidence. Makes the fact more believable.
Pattern of three	Words, phrases or sentences used three times	The room was quiet, the room was still, the mood was heavy	Emphasises the point and offers an exaggeration without using adjectives