

Rhetoric is defined by the OED as “the art of using language so as to persuade or influence others; the body of rules to be observed by a speaker or writer in order that he may express himself with eloquence.”

In the Middle Ages rhetoric was reckoned one of the seven ‘liberal arts’, being comprised, with grammar and logic, in the ‘trivium,’ which was the study of “the power of language.” The quadrivium, on the other hand, which referred to the study of arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music, concerned “the secrets of nature.”

Definitions and copious examples and audio bites (even some video) of the following rhetorical devices can be found at---

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com>

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/rhetoricaldevicesinsound.htm>

alliteration

anaphora

metaphor

personification

allusion

polysyndeton

asyndeton

simile

rhetorical question

analogy

antithesis

synechdoche

hyperbole

epistrophe

parallelism

For homework, cut and paste definitions and best examples (at least two each) of these literary or rhetorical devices onto your own stand-alone study guide, which I will collect and grade next class.