

## The Declaration of Independence Rhetorical Devices

Directions: Complete all areas of the chart.

DEVICE	EXAMPLE	PARAPHRASE	EFFECT
1. Diction (word choice)	He has refused his Assent to Laws He has forbidden his Governors...	The King has rejected laws passed by colonial assemblies.	This first sentence of the long list of grievances is the beginning of the ways in which the British government has stripped the colonists of their rights. The repetition of "he has," the parallel structure, and the negative verbs (refused, forbidden, neglected) all carry an emotional appeal. The diction allows the writers to enunciate with great clarity what the King did wrong.
2. Diction	He has plundered our seas...	The word "plunder" implies that the people who were "plundered" were helpless, overcome by an excessively powerful aggressor	
3. Diction			
4. Imagery	He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of <b>death, desolation</b> and <b>tyranny</b> , already begun with circumstances of <b>Cruelty &amp; perfidy</b> ...		The writers use these nouns (in bold) in order to ...
5. Imagery	Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.		

The Declaration of Independence  
Rhetorical Devices

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6. Syntax (Sentence structure)	The change of parallelism from "He has..." to "For..."		
7. Syntax			
8. Repetition			
9. Repetition			

The Declaration of Independence  
Rhetorical Devices

DEVICE	EXAMPLE	PARAPHRASE	EFFECT
10. Figurative language			
11. Figurative language			
12. (Student Choice)			