



Explaining Relationships in Writing

Cuyamaca College – Writing Center

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Reference: Mauk, John, and John Metz. *The Composition of Everyday Life: A Guide to Writing*. Thomson Wadsworth, 2007.



Introduction

In this tutor tool, analysis involves investigating all the possible ways two entities relate to each other.

It means going beyond the obvious relationship and exploring the hidden or abstract connections.

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Success Check

Applied relationships:

- **Creature & Creature**
e.g. friend & friend, student & instructor, human & pet...
- **Creature & entity**
e.g. students & school policies, kids & toys, human & books...
- **Entity & entity**
e.g. rules & productivity, traffic lights & accidents, cell-phone usage & grades...



Brainstorm Questions




Explore
layers

- Is the relationship difficult or easy? Positive or negative? Why?
 - What keeps the relationship going? Inside or outside reasons?
 - What qualities or characteristics do they share?
 - How does the presence of one influence the other? Direct or hidden?
- What would occur to one if the other were gone?

Brainstorm Questions

- What is your(the writer' s) role in this relationship? Participant? Observer?
- What do you expect from this relationship? Results?
- How involved are you? How involved are your readers? Why?
- What tensions or problems exist? Solution? Progress? Which one should make the change? Why?



Explore
complexities

**You are not writing
entirely for yourself.**

You're writing to explain
something for others. In
other words, why the
relationship is
important to others?

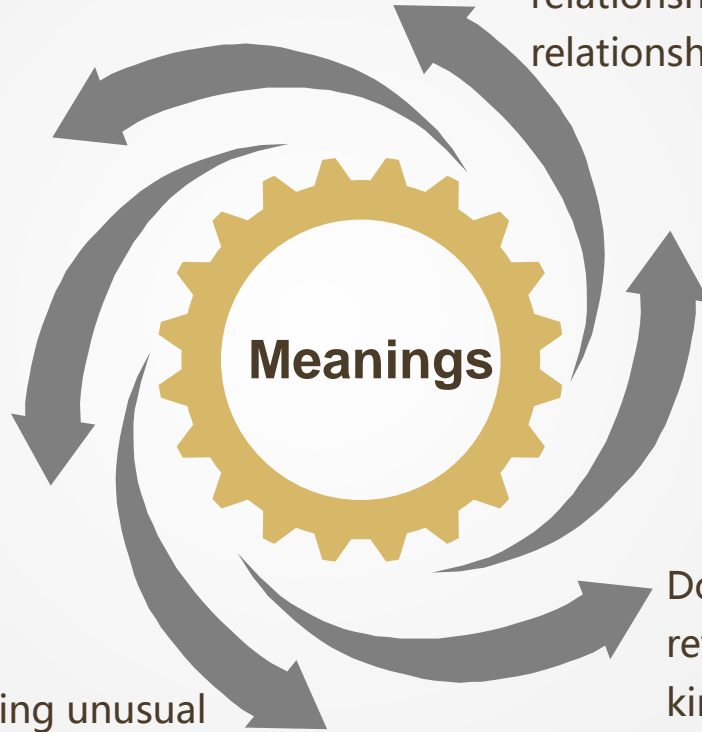


Public Resonance

Does the relationship reveal something about one's strengths or weaknesses?

Why is it important that people see the meaning of the relationship?

Is there something unusual about this relationship?
Why is it unusual?



Is there something usual about this relationship? Why do most similar relationships seem to function this way?

What impact does this relationship have in the future?

Does this relationship show how rewarding or valuable a particular kind of relationship can be? vice versa?

You need to have a single statement that not only gives focus to your topic but also gives your particular insight on that topic.

03

**Possible
Types of
Theses**

Possible Types of Theses

Explain the significant qualities of a particular kind of relationship.



Explain how a particular relationship reveals something important about a subject.

Explain what is sometimes hidden in a particular kind of relationship.



Explain how a particular relationship is much like something else.



Explain the difficulties or problems of playing a role, child, parent, instructor, driver...

Possible Types of Theses e.g.



General

Students

Specific

3rd grade students

More Specific

The attitudes of 3rd grade students



Revelation Verbs

Depend....

Relies...

Competes...

e.g. The attitudes of 3rd grade students **depend** upon the opinions of their close friends.

Develop
&
Support
your ideas.

04



**Some
Rhetorical
Tools**

Some Rhetorical Tools

Narration, or storytelling:

You might consider beginning your essay with a brief retelling of a situation regarding the relationship, or using a brief account to illustrate something about the relationship.

1. Start the narrative at an appropriate place. Limit your story to include only relevant parts of the situation.
2. Focus on only the relevant details of the events.
3. Use consistent verb tense.
4. At some point, make sure to explain the significance or relevance of the narrative to the reader.

Some Rhetorical Tools

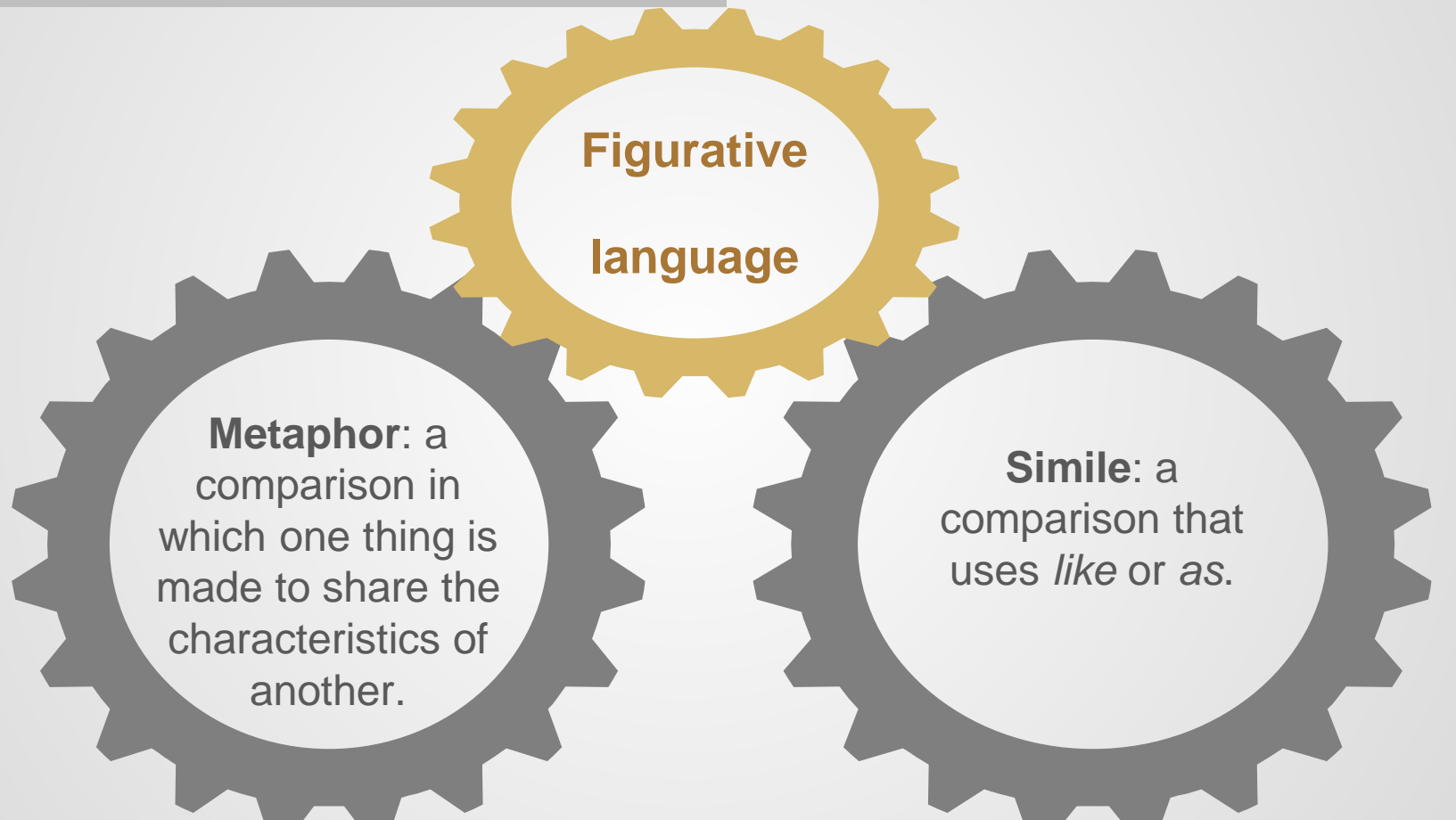


Description

You might describe the people involved in the relationship—their particular postures, facial expressions, and gestures.

You might need to describe a particular situation in detail. In that case, narration and description will work together.

Some Rhetorical Tools

A diagram consisting of three interlocking gears. The top gear is yellow and contains the text 'Figurative language'. The bottom-left gear is dark grey and contains the text 'Metaphor: a comparison in which one thing is made to share the characteristics of another.'. The bottom-right gear is dark grey and contains the text 'Simile: a comparison that uses like or as.'. The gears are arranged in a triangular pattern, with the yellow gear at the top and the two grey gears below it.

**Figurative
language**

Metaphor: a comparison in which one thing is made to share the characteristics of another.

Simile: a comparison that uses *like* or *as*.

Review your work

Proofread actively



Success Check

Are there any phrases that could be more specific?

Where can you (the writer) do more analysis and reveal more about the relationship?

Are the paragraphs coherent?

Look for particular sentences and phrases that could gain vitality and intensity.

**A hidden connection in a
relationship analysis is normally
stronger than an obvious one.**

Thank you

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