Informal Essays - Rhetorical Devices

Essays are all about convincing someone that you’re right—they’re an argument. The whole point is to present an interesting, thought-provoking idea that not everyone would have immediately thought of and PROVE that you’re right. How do you prove this?

* Examples that are specific, convincing, and maybe not the most obvious
* Explanations that tell your reader (who might disagree with you) what your example proves and why it’s significant

In addition to your actual argument, rhetorical devices can help you be extremely persuasive. Here are a few to consider:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Allusion |  |
| Ambiguity |   |
| Analogy |  |
| Anecdote |  |
| Diction |  |
| Euphemism |   |
| Hyperbole |  |
| Imagery |  |
| Irony |  |
| Metaphor |  |
| Paradox |  |
| Repetition  |  |
| Rhetorical Question |  |
| Sentence Fragment |   |
| Tone |  |