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GRADUATE THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

More than Words: Rhetorical Devices in American Political Cartoons

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Graduation Year

2012

Document Type

Thesis

Degree

M.A.

Degree Granting Department

Humanities and Cultural Studies

Major Professor

Robert Snyder

Keywords

Art, Communications, History, Humor, Literary Theory, Symbolism

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Abstract

This thesis argues that literary theory applied to political cartoons shows that cartoons are reasoned arguments. The rhetorical devices used in the cartoons mimic verbal devices used by essayists. These devices, in turn, make cartoons influential in that they have the power to persuade readers while making them laugh or smile. It also gives examples of literary theorists whose works can be applied to political cartooning, including Frederick Saussure, Mikhail Bakhtin, and Wolfgang Iser. Not only do those theorists' arguments apply to text, they also apply to pictorial representations.

This thesis also discusses changes in the cartoon art form over the 250 years that American political cartoons have existed. Changes have occurred in both the way text and pictorial depictions have been presented by artists. This thesis makes some attempt to explain why the changes occurred and whether they have been for the better.

Comments

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Scholar Commons Citation

Bush, Lawrence Ray, "More than Words: Rhetorical Devices in American Political Cartoons" (2012). *Graduate Theses and Dissertations*. <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/etd/3924>

For each rhetorical device, definitions and examples (text, audio, video) are provided. Audio and video examples are taken from public speeches and sermons, movies, songs, lectures, oral interpretations of literature, and other media events. Some artifacts have been edited further to make the devices easier to detect. In the interest of diversity, a range of voices and perspectives is included. TOP 10 FIGURES. Anadiplosis. Course of rhetorical political discourses, Manipulation through Words: Rhetorical Devices in Political Speeches, The Political Speech as Rhetorical Discourse Much more than documents. Discover everything Scribd has to offer, including books and audiobooks from major publishers. Start Free Trial. Cancel anytime. Manipulation through Words: Rhetorical Devices in Political Speeches. Uploaded by. Vera Liskovski. Political cartoons date back to before the creation of the United States. Today, they remain an important part of American culture. They are protected as free speech, as part of a free press, under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The country's first political cartoon is generally considered to be one by Benjamin Franklin, a founding father. The cartoon, which showed a snake cut into parts, was published by Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette newspaper in 1754. It was meant to increase support for his plan for a union of Britain's North American colonies. Rhule says she hopes this long tradition will live on for many years to come. "It's always been a part of this country and the world's way of freely expressing ideas and debate. Rhetorical

devices can function at all levels: words, sentences, paragraphs, and beyond. Some rhetorical devices are just a single word, such as onomatopoeia. Others are phrases, such as metaphor, while still others can be sentence-length (such as a thesis), paragraph-length (hypophora), or go throughout the entire piece, such as a standard five-paragraph essay. Many of these (such as the thesis or five-paragraph essay) are so standard and familiar to us that we may not think of them as devices. [The Most Useful Rhetorical Devices List](#). It would be impossible to list every single rhetorical device in one blog post. Instead, I've collected a mixture of extremely common devices you may have heard before and some more obscure ones that might be valuable to learn.