

Analyzing Figures

Voila an attempt to clarify the assignment:

Introduction (Follow guidelines for Intro Strategy #2 in Appendix.)

- I. Introduce and contextualize your text.
- 2. Ask a question, identify a problem, or describe a puzzle. Given this assignment, you could question the common idea that figures and tropes are merely "ornamentation, "flowery" or excessive language.
- 3. Use Bennett to introduce a better view of the role of figures and tropes. Cite and clarify key passages that deal with the role figures and tropes play. Citing something like "the meaning of a text cannot be separated from its expression, its figures" would help, but there are lots of possibilities.
- 4. Thesis—Make a claim about the importance of figures and tropes in your text.

In other words, given that you are supposed to ask, "What are the effects of rhetorical and literary figures in this text? What purpose do they serve? And how do they function?" you need to simultaneously identify specific figures/tropes and make a claim about their effect or function.

Supporting Paragraphs

Your supporting paragraphs should begin along the lines of ...

The claim simultaneously identifies: a specific figure of speech and tells us its effect or function. Blake alludes to the garden of Eden to create a contrast between what was and what is, between an idyllic state characterized by youth and innocence and a dead state marked by old age and experience.

You need to explain, doing your best to persuade us that the words are coded in the way you say.

If I were you, I'd either dedicate a para to each identifiable figure/ trope, discussing how the writer uses it in different ways through the work, or if the text lends itself to this approach, march through the text, noting various figures and their effects along the way. It would be a kind of play by play or tour boat:"On your left side is "metaphor," used in this situation to ... and on the right side we notice the sneaky personification who only comes out at night to Behold the might PUN!"

Blake then poins on the word "writ" in order to reinforce the stifling effect of organized religion. On the one hand, "writ" is merely an abbreviation of the word "written," but it is also By punning on this word, Blake is able to ...

or

Blakes uses the metaphors "tombs" and "flowers" to advance the difference between the natural and the artificial, for "tombs" suggest death, stasis, and even captivity while "flowers" implies.....