

## TECHNIQUES WRITERS EMPLOY TO CONSTRUCT THEIR TEXT

Style is the way writers choose words to construct sentences and paragraphs that reflect their way of using language for a specific purpose and effect. To make their writing more effective consider the following points of style.

Form:

This is the form the writing is presented in, such as: Report, Story, Letter, Diary entry, Journal entry, Speech, Script, etc.

Structure:

- ?? The beginning, the middle, the end, particularly in narratives e.g. story telling.
- ?? To build their argument.
- ?? Use of examples.
- ?? Use of anecdotes.
- ?? Use of facts, figures and statistics to support the writer's argument.

Techniques:

- ?? Narrative mode e.g. use of a narrator either as a character or as the writer, third person.
- ?? Tense - past / present / future
- ?? Symbolism - a sign or object representing something
- ?? Irony - the use of polite language to ridicule someone or thing
- ?? Puns - a play on words - a humorous use of a word to suggest another with the same sound but different spelling.
- ?? Contrast - to make comparisons e.g. Good .v. Evil
- ?? The use of repetition? What is the effect of repetition?
- ?? Key images, which are striking pieces of description.
- ?? Characterisation; how the characters are drawn and presented to the reader.
- ?? Time period over which narrative occurs.
- ?? Humour; often this can be related to the tone of the piece.

Sentence construction:

- ?? Short: To make simple statements and to add emphasis
- ?? Long: To provide information and / or add detail, colour, etc.

Use of questions:

- ?? Are there questions being asked of the reader?
- ?? Are rhetorical questions used to gauge the reader's response?

Use of statements:

- ?? Are there many statements in the piece?
- ?? Does this make the writer opinionated?

Use of punctuation:

- ?? What sort is it?
- ?? Is it used to highlight thoughts, ideas, opinions, etc?

Use of the active / passive voice:

- ?? Are the sentences strong and confident?
- ?? Or passive, allowing the reader to believe the writer is not confident in their voice?

Vocabulary:

- ?? Use of Adjectives, Nouns, Verbs [active and passive], Pronouns [used to include and exclude various readers].
- ?? Colloquial speech [everyday language - relaxed, informal, personal, conversational].
- ?? Formal speech [the use of formal words indicate a serious approach to the subject].
- ?? Technical language [the use of subject specific language - a good indicator of the intended audience for the piece].
- ?? Plain / Simple / Common [used to create a sincere and truthful atmosphere].
- ?? Poetic [the use of metaphors and similes to create mental pictures].
- ?? Cliches [the recycling of old tired words for dull unimaginative writing].
- ?? Word connotations [writers choose words because they have extra meaning[s] beyond the context of the dictionary definition. These words have embedded assumptions within them].
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Tone is the attitude the writer takes towards the subject they are writing about:

- ?? Sarcastic
- ?? Humorous
- ?? Angry
- ?? Disappointed
- ?? Pompous
- ?? Lecturing
- ?? Sharing and caring
- ?? Cynical
- ?? Nostalgic
- ?? Detached and objective
- ?? Analytical
- ?? Argumentative
- ?? Etc

N.B. The reader infers the mood from the tone created by the writer.