

Using syntax strategies, how can I effectively...



Emphasize a particular point?

- Repetition – repeating a word or phrase to emphasize a point

EX: *Why should we continue to wake up at 6am for school? Why should we continue to lose sleep? Why should we continue to perform worse, continue to not pay attention, continue to fail, to waste time, to not fulfill the goals of education?*

HOW? Hammers in a point and makes it memorable.

- Semicolons/Antithesis – holding two phrases next to each other separated by a semicolon in order to expose a contrast to prove a point.

EX: *A school that begins with an early arrival time has students that are sleepy, inattentive, and lazy; a school that has that time pushed back just by an hour has students that are healthier, socially stronger, and readier to learn.*

HOW? Demonstrates a contrast that powerfully demonstrates a point

- Polysyndeton – when explaining an idea, use multiple conjunctions to overwhelm the reader with the point

EX: *Not only does the student have to keep up with assignments and keep her grades up and consistently work at her job and run the clubs that she is the president of and make it to play rehearsals, but she must apply to colleges and find time to do homework and sleep and socialize with friends and keep herself physically healthy.*

HOW? Overwhelms and shocks the reader with the quantity of items in the list.

Make a specific line memorable and impactful?

- Periodic sentence – having details begin the sentence and building up to the actual idea at the end

EX: *While the sun was still coming over the horizon, before the dew had fully evaporated, and while the citizens slept soundly in their homes, the enormous beast slithered and stalked closer and closer to the protective walls.*

HOW? Builds suspense for the conclusion or main idea of a sentence.

- Sentence variety – introducing a very long sentence to explain an idea and then follow that with a short sentence

EX: *While the sun was still coming over the horizon, before the dew had fully evaporated, and while the citizens slept soundly in their homes, the enormous beast slithered and stalked closer and closer to the protective walls. The animal let out a thunderous roar before the charge.*

HOW? Brings attention to the short sentence/phrase/word and makes your writing not repetitive

- Colons – independent clauses followed by a colon and then a single word or phrase to bring attention to that phrase or word.

EX: *By emphasizing and repeating the importance of democracy and American ideals, Lincoln's purpose in his Gettysburg Address is clear: he wants to motivate the Union to continue fighting the Confederacy and protect those important ideals from the Confederacy.*

HOW? Focuses the reader's attention on the clause following the colon

Add personality to my writing?

- Parenthesis – adding small notes separated by parenthesis in order to quickly add a personal note to the essay – could be used for sarcasm or powerful commentary.

EX: *The teacher told the student that in order to not fail again, they should probably study (what a crazy idea!).*

HOW? Adds nuances and details to sentence.

- Diction – utilizing a wider range of vocabulary to establish a certain tone in an essay

EX: *Many goals throughout history have been deemed honorable, such as defeating the Nazis, the arbitrators of the Holocaust, preventing the spread of Communism, the so-called 'enemy of freedom', and eradicating terrorists, those considered indiscriminate murderers.*

HOW? Spices up the writing piece, makes for a more interesting read, and can be used to convey a desired emotion.

- All other strategies listed above!

HOW? Adding syntax strategies as you see fit allows you to express yourself and by doing so, add personality and flair to your writing.