Parallelism

Rhetorical Terms: Parallelism, Anaphora, Antithesis

Note: you must use and label two different types in your Editorial; to label within paper – include the type (parallelism, anaphora, or antithesis) in parentheses after your use.

- **Parallelism**: Figure of balance identified by a similarity in the syntactical structure of a set of words in successive phrases, clauses, sentences; successive words, phrases, clauses with the same or very similar grammatical structure.

**Examples of Parallelism:**

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

-- John F. Kennedy, *Inaugural Address*

"We have seen the state of our Union in the endurance of rescuers, working past exhaustion. We've seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers -- in English, Hebrew, and Arabic." -- George W. Bush, *9-20-01 Address to the Nation on Terrorism*

"...and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

-- Abraham Lincoln, *Gettysburg Address* (here delivered by Jeff Daniels)

- **Anaphora**: Figure of repetition that occurs when the first word or set of words in one sentence, clause, or phrase is/are repeated at the beginning of successive sentences, clauses, or phrases; repetition of the initial word(s) over successive phrases or clauses.

**Examples of Anaphora:**

"We have petitioned and our petitions have been scorned. We have entreated and our entreaties have been disregarded. We have begged and they have mocked when our calamity came. We beg no longer. We entreat no more. We petition no more. We defy them."

-- William Jennings Bryan

Note here that the first three sentences comprise the first parallelism used in conjunction with anaphora. The next three sentences constitute a second parallelism also in conjunction with anaphora.

"To raise a happy, healthy, and hopeful child, *it takes* a family; *it takes* teachers; *it takes* clergy; *it takes* business people; *it takes* community leaders; *it takes* those who protect our health and safety. *It takes* all of us." -- Hillary Clinton, *1996 Democratic National Convention Address*

- **Antithesis**: Figure of balance in which two contrasting ideas are intentionally juxtaposed, usually through parallel structure; a contrasting of opposing ideas in adjacent phrases, clauses, or sentences.

**Examples of Antithesis:**

"...although the surface appears to be...very, very fine-grained as you get close to it. It's almost like a powder...Okay, I'm going to step off the LEM now. That's one *small step for man*; one *giant leap for mankind.*" -- Neil Armstrong, *Apollo 11 Moon Landing Speech*