**Connecting Rhetorical Devices to Thesis**

**Step 1 – FIND THE THESIS**

* It is not always as easy as reading the first paragraph and finding the last sentence. Sometimes you have to read and re-read the essay before you really grasp what it is the author is arguing – don’t give up. It’s not TOO hard. It’s just HARD. Sometimes when things are HARD you have to work HARD.
* Ensure you understand the content of the essay – look up allusions that you don’t understand, work through issues, TALK to people about it
* Find the PROBLEM that is being discussed
* Find the SOLUTION that is being offered
* Analyze WHY the author thinks it’s an important problem

**Step 2 – FIND ALLLLLLLL THE RHETORICAL DEVICES**

* Go through the essay and highlight all the devices
* Make notes in the margins about HOW they connect to the thesis
* Find 3-5 STRONG devices and analyze WHY and HOW they are strong
* Ensure you have identified the CORRECT devices – consult your definition sheet or a friend

**Connecting a RD to a THESIS**

1. Correctly identify the Device
2. Explain how it is an example of the Device (if it’s a metaphor, what is it comparing etc)
3. Explain how it supports the sub-argument in detail
4. Connect the sub-argument to the main argument or thesis through the RD (How does the RD connect directly to the thesis – usually it would be used to SUPPORT or PROVE some aspect of the thesis)

**PRACTICE:** Find an essay that we’ve studied. Go through the above steps and identify the thesis and 1 Rhetorical Device. Remember, this skill requires PRACTICE and it’s HARD, so don’t skip these practice questions just because I’m not marking them. You might think this practice is meaningless, but trust me, those who practice show it on their essays and work that IS marked and those who don’t, show that too.

**ESSAY TITLE:**

**THESIS:**

**RD and Analysis:**