

# Music/Poetry Workshop (Spring 2023)

## Session 2: Rhetorical Analysis

(5 min introduction and greeting)

### Intro Activity: Rhetorical devices discussion

- What ideas are often expressed in music and how?
- What is an example of a song that uses a form of device to illicit feelings, thoughts, etc.?

### Ethos/pathos/logos devices used in music

#### Ethos:

- Using other musical notes ie. Sven Rings samples My Favorite Things from the Sound of Music
- Names of musicians
- References to history/mythology?
  - History ie. American Pie by Don McClean
  - Mythology ie. Achilles Heel by J Maya

#### Pathos:

- Portray and invoke happy or sad emotions
- Christmas music: Wonderful Christmas Time, Christmas Always Finds Me, Joy to the World, Blue Christmas

#### Logos:

- Laying out a point of view or argument in a logical or rational manner
- Song idea: If I Were a Rich Man from Fiddler on the Roof
  - Explains Tevye's point of view of how if he had more money his problems would be solved and how his life would be different

### Lyrics with many meanings

#### Double entendre:

- A double entendre is a word or phrase that contains more than one interpretation. Commonly, one of the interpretations is humorous or risqué, but that isn't always the case.
- Examples of a double entendre:
  - Elliot Smith's "Between the Bars": (1) like in prison; or (2) where one goes to drink; or (3) the bars of a song that he's writing
  - Rush's *Moving Pictures* album cover has people making a movie (Moving Pictures) of people literally moving pictures (lifting them and moving them), all while people watching are emotionally moved by the pictures (the picture is a moving piece of photography).

### Closing Activity: Rhetorical analysis practice

- Practice analyzing a piece of music you enjoy
- What is the meaning of the song? What appeals are used to express ideas? Are there any double entendres?

After about 10 minutes of freewriting, we will stop and return as a group once more to talk about how it went and share our ideas!

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**DISCLAIMER:** The purpose of this exercise is to communicate with other workshop attendees, get to know them a bit, and brainstorm material for you to write about. Please do not intentionally make anyone uncomfortable, and think before you speak about situations that are excessively or unnecessarily gory, violent, or that could trigger other people and make them feel unsafe. If you would like to talk about a topic and are unsure if it is okay, ask the group politely. If at any point you feel uncomfortable in the group, or if anyone intentionally violates these rules, please let the workshop facilitators know so that we can handle the situation.

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Please fill out a survey to help us improve the workshop, and have a great weekend!

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