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ENG 230

26 August 2020

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Mark Antony Essay

In Mark Antony's speech in Act III of scene 2, Mark Antony greatly portrayed control of his audience by using combinations of syntactical structure, connotative vocabulary and by setting a serious tone. The speech is structured with sentences that are short in length, but it alternates between a combination of declarative, exclamatory, interrogative and imperative sentences. Throughout the speech he asks the countrymen a variety of questions through interrogative sentences. He asks questions such as "Will you be patient? Will you stay awhile?" He also asks the country men questions such as "What causes withhold you then, to mourn for him?" By utilizing interrogative questions, Antony was able to take control of the readers perspective while questioning the information that he gave in his speech to the countrymen through declarative sentences. He used declarative sentences to explain his reasoning for his speech, and to call attention to the fact he came specifically to speak for Caesar's death. Examples of declarative sentences in the passage are "I come to bury Caesar, not praise him. Declarative statements give commands, and that is a perfect example of Antony declaring his purpose. Another great example of Mark Antony using declarative sentences are "I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke, but here I am to speak what I do know."

Mark Antony also uses a combination of exclamatory sentences and imperative sentences to add emphasis on the topic he is speaking of. Antony uses imperative sentences with some exclamatory marks as a call to action as to how the country men should react to his speech. A good example of an imperative sentence used in this speech is “If you have tears, prepared to shed them now.” Antony conveyed that sentence as if it was a request or a command for the countrymen to release their tears. An example of exclamatory sentence structure in the passage is “ O, what a fall was there, my countrymen! This statement adds emphasis on the downfall that the countrymen took, and it also adds a sense of emotional behind the use of the words.

Last but not least, Mark Antony effectively set a serious tone through the use of connotative vocabulary that he used throughout the speech. He sets a gloomy and serious tone because he used words that have a negative connotation such as evil, corpse, rage, grievous and dead. After reading a series of terms that have a negative connotation, it doesn't take the reader long to understand the overall theme and tone of the speech. By managing his use of negative connotative words and different elements of the syntactical structure Antony effectively created a speech that would be clear to the countrymen and for his readers.