




**Rhetorical Verbs**  
Words to Give “Uses” a Break

Rhetorical Modes	Classical Argument Structure (Oration)	Other Verbs of Merit
<p><b>Narration</b></p> <p>1. Narrates</p> <p><b>Description</b></p> <p>2. Describes</p> <p><b>Exemplification</b></p> <p>3. Exemplifies</p> <p>4. Provides</p> <p><b>Compare and Contrast</b></p> <p>5. Compares</p> <p>6. Contrasts</p> <p>7. Juxtaposes</p> <p><b>Classification and Division</b></p> <p>8. Divides</p> <p>9. Classifies</p> <p>10. Categorizes</p> <p>11. Characterizes</p> <p><b>Definition</b></p> <p>12. Defines</p> <p><b>Process Analysis</b></p> <p>13. Initiates</p> <p>14. Provides</p> <p>15. Analyzes</p> <p><b>Cause and Effect</b></p> <p>16. Causes</p> <p>17. Affects</p>	<p><b>Exordium &amp; Background</b></p> <p>1. Creates</p> <p>2. Contextualizes</p> <p>3. Initiates</p> <p>4. Introduces</p> <p>5. Illustrates</p> <p><b>Partition</b></p> <p>6. Presents</p> <p>7. Develops</p> <p>8. Claims</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b></p> <p>9. Confirms</p> <p>10. Supports</p> <p>11. Rationalizes</p> <p>12. Legitimizes</p> <p><b>Refutation</b></p> <p>13. Challenges</p> <p>14. Refutes</p> <p>15. Defends</p> <p><b>So What?</b></p> <p>16. Pleads</p> <p>17. Instigates</p> <p>18. Clarifies</p> <p>19. Implies</p> <p>20. Posits</p> <p>21. Calls to Action</p>	<p>1. Considers</p> <p>2. Reasons</p> <p>3. Evokes</p> <p>4. Elicits</p> <p>5. Implies</p> <p>6. Addresses</p> <p>7. Provides</p> <p>8. Distinguishes</p> <p>9. Demonstrates</p> <p>10. Provokes</p> <p>11. Maintains</p> <p>12. Repeats</p> <p>13. Avoids</p> <p>14. Concludes</p> <p>15. Excludes</p> <p>16. Focuses</p> <p>17. Incites</p> <p>18. Inspires</p> <p>19. Ridicules</p> <p>20. Opposes</p> <p>21. Assumes</p> <p>22. Speculates</p> <p>23. Sympathizes</p> <p>24. Alludes</p> <p>25. Exposes</p> <p>26. Reveals</p>
		

# Literary Verbs

Words to Give “Uses” a Break

Addressing Exposition	Verbs to Pair with Literary Devices	Evaluating Author’s Purpose
Contextualizes	Creates	Advocates
Chronicles	Expresses	Argues
Identifies	Foreshadows	Accepts
Incites	Hyperbolizes	Advocates
Introduces	Illustrates	Alludes
Narrates	Overstates	Attacks
Outlines	Personifies	Attributes
	Presents	Challenges
	Represents	Claims
<b>Description</b>	Satirizes	Concludes
Defines	Symbolizes	Considers
Depicts	Understates	Defends
Describes		Defies
Details		Demonstrates
Develops		Elicits
Displays		Envisions
Dramatizes		Evokes
Explains		Explores
Illustrates		Guides
Summarizes		Highlights
Traces		Illuminates
<b>Addressing Comparisons</b>		Imagines
Compares		Implies
Contrasts		Indicates
Correlates		Interprets
Differentiates		Justifies
Distinguishes		Manipulates
Juxtaposes		Moralizes
		Observes
<b>Addressing Characterization</b>		Ponders
Categorizes		Promotes
Characterizes		Proposes
Transforms		Qualifies
		Questions
		Rationalizes
		Reflects
		Ridicules
		Suggests