

Student Name

ENGL-1013

Composition I

20 October 2023

Revision List

1. Take away the unnecessary rhetorical devices used in the introduction paragraph.
  - I decided to make this revision because I didn't talk about all the rhetorical devices I mentioned in my introduction.
2. Only need the author's name in the first in-text citation when you are citing the same source over and over.
  - I made this revision because it was simple and made it look better.
3. Stick to one singular rhetorical device per paragraph.
  - I made this revision on only some paragraphs because I felt like so went best together.
4. Restate the conclusion by describing the impact Kobe's death had on the community.
  - I made this revision to have a better conclusion and leave the paper open-ended.

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### Analyzing Rhetorical Devices

Lamont Williams, author of *"Mamba in the Mirror: Black Masculinity, Celebrity, and the Public Mourning of Kobe Bryant,"* expresses his journey with his grievance of Kobe Bryant's sudden death. The article focuses on the tragic death of the legend Kobe Bryant. Mentioning some of his experiences as a black man, Williams attempts to understand the public's point of view of Kobe. Williams uses a series of rhetorical devices to help convey the impact that Kobe's life left on people around the world. He carries out the article with hyperboles, repetition, pathos, similes, and metaphors. With the help of these rhetorical devices Williams expresses the headache felt by many fans and even those who didn't know him well.

The most common rhetorical device seen is pathos. Williams appeals to the audience's emotions multiple times throughout this article. The first time we see pathos being used is in the third paragraph where Williams describes the flood of emotions he feels after receiving the news of Kobe's untimely, tragic death. Williams states "My hands began to shake, and my eyes welled up instantly... I was unable to speak, so I stared into the camera with a blank gaze. My voice cracked, screeching as the words finally left my mouth, "Bro... Kobe just... Kobe Bryant died" (Williams 301). The pity one feels while reading through the emotions described places the audience in his emotional state and makes them feel pity towards him. Another example of pathos being used is when Williams specifies the lives that were lost in the wreck. But specifically when he says ". The crash took the life of Bryant (age 41), his 13-year-old daughter Gianna (known as "Gigi") ..." (301). Now the audience is informed that not only was the life of

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the father lost but also the life of his daughter at the young age of 13. By using pathos in the article of a devastating death is inevitable but it elevates the feel of the read by placing the audience in a vulnerable state.

Another way Williams illustrates the impact felt through this catastrophic event is through repetition. Williams says "Maybe it does feel real? Maybe it feels extremely real? Maybe that's what's going on? Maybe that's where this ache is coming from?" (303). The repetition of the word "maybe" is used to emphasize the feeling he felt of reality hitting. The harsh reality of death and how it's inescapable, even for people we idolize. It used again on page 304 of the article where he realizes that Kobe was human too. Williams shares "He was a man, with a heartbeat, just like me. He was a man, a Black man, just like me. He died, just as I will" (304). As the realization of Kobe being a person and doesn't have a life fully devoted to playing the game of basketball, he also relates to him by stating "just like me." Williams relates to him since they're both black men and they face similarities for being a black man regardless of their different backgrounds. Its seen once more where Williams discusses the cruelty of racism. Where he states "Some people loved the Black men. Some people despised them. Some people love Black culture, but don't particularly love Black people." Later in the article Williams shares his story when his aunt tells him that there will be people in life that will demean you just for the color of your skin.

Hyperboles are often used to illustrate the impact Bryant's death left the on many. When Williams states, "Pianos are dropping from the sky all around us, and one may be headed our way"

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(303), he uses hyperbole to create an extreme exaggeration still defining the fact that death is human's fate. Another example of hyperbole being used is "Kobe Bryant was certainly a "larger-than-life" figure who seemed superhuman at times for his ability on and off the basketball court" (303). This is an example of both hyperbole and a metaphor. By saying "larger-than-life" Williams didn't mean out of this world, but simply he was relating to the fact that he was so great. Williams metaphorically compares Kobe to a superhuman. Once again this is hyperbole because there's no such thing as a superhuman.

Similes and metaphors are often used in many literatures work. Williams often compares himself to Bryant by using a simile stating "Bryant's blood ran red and his lungs pumped oxygen, just as mine. His skin was black, and his history was complicated, just as me." (304) In this quote he is comparing his blood and lungs and skin to Kobes when he says, "just like mine." while also comparing his complicated history to Kobe's. Williams then uses a metaphor when sharing "she seen me in him," talking about his mother comparing Kobe to her son because he idolized him so much.

With Williams' usage of these rhetorical devices, he expresses the grief felt by many who loved and supported him to those who hardly knew him. His expression through rhetorical analysis ties the readers even more to the article emotionally making it more engrossing for the audience to read. The use of logos and pathos helps the readers picture the agony and anguish felt. When using hyperbole, repetition, similes, and metaphors Williams exaggerates the events in the article to have a better understanding of the situation. The impact left by the death of the hero for many, was so tragic because

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of how sudden and unexpected it was. It was a devastating loss for all who knew him as he was a  
remodel for many people and inspiration to follow their passions.

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Work Cited

Williams, A. L. (2021). Mamba in the Mirror: Black Masculinity, Celebrity, and the Public Mourning of Kobe Bryant. *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 38(3), 302–309. <https://doi.org/10.1123/ssj.2020-0125>