Jesus Hernandez

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AP Rhetorical Device Essay

J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur was an aristocrat from Europe that came to the American colonies and bought a farm in New York City. Crevecoeur didn’t have much in Europe and it was always hard form him to live in his country; however now that he was an American he became proud to live in America and was very glad to leave his old country he once called home. As he explains his transition in moving from Europe to America in one of his writings from his 1782 collection called “Letters from an American farmer” he uses hypophora and anaphora; 2 rhetorical devices to create a stronger argument about colonial American society.

First of all, the author John de Crevecoeur uses the rhetorical device anaphora in his writing by repeating words to emphasize that he has left all the country that he was born in and has come to America where he has embraced his new home due to all of the new changes. John de Crevecoeur uses anaphora when he writes “He is either an European or the descendant of an European, hence that strange mixture of blood, which you will find in no other country. I could point out to you a family whose grandfather was an Englishman, whose wife was Dutch, whose son married a French woman, and whose present dour sons have now four wives of different nations, He is an American who, leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds. He becomes an American by being received in the broad lap of our great Alma Mater.” The author repeats the words He and whose to make his audience the wealthy/educated people understand how he feels about himself becoming an American. The intended effect on the audience is to make them realize how bad he was living in Europe and now he has a new government and life that he always wished for so the audience should feel the need to move to America.

Next, is the author of the essay uses hypophora in his essay by asking a question his readers might be asking and then he answers the question throughout the whole paragraph. The author uses this rhetorical device when he writes “By what invisible power has this surprising metamorphosis been performed? By that if the laws and that of their industry.” Crevecoeur uses this rhetorical device to make the audience comprehend better what has changed for the better between Europe and America. The intended effect on the audience is his audience should feel happy that he has found a new home that he loves and is happy to be in; also the audience should realize that America gives you hope and freedom.

Furthermore, J. Hector St. John Crevecoeur moved to America to have independence and leave all the poverty he had in his old country Europe. The author uses many rhetorical devices to explain the new changes he confronted when he came to New York; as you can see I explained 2 rhetorical choices the author includes in his writing and both were to make his audience comprehend his great changes. The author creates a great argument by using anaphora and hypophora that coming to America was the best thing to happen because of all the new modes of living and government that he embraces.