**Rhetoric Lesson 8: Alterations**

**Asyndeton:**

"Duty, **Honor**, **Country**: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, **what you can be**, **what you will be**. They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail; **to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith**; **to create hope when hope becomes forlorn**."

-- General Douglas MacArthur, [Thayer Award Acceptance Address](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/douglasmacarthurthayeraward.html)

"We use words like honor, **code**, **loyalty**. We use these words as the backbone of a life spent defending something. You use them as a punch line."

-- delivered by Jack Nicholson (from the movie *A Few Good Men*)

* Speed up the film, Montag, quick. *Click, Pic, Look, Eye, Now, Flick, Here, There, Swift, Pace, Up, Down, In, Out, Why, How, Who, What, Where, Eh? Uh! Bang! Smack! Wallop, Bing, Bong, Boom!*"
(Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*, 1953)
* "Anyway, like I was saying, shrimp is the fruit of the sea. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, saute it. Dey's uh, shrimp-kabobs, shrimp creole, shrimp gumbo. Pan fried, deep fried, stir-fried. There's pineapple shrimp, lemon shrimp, coconut shrimp, pepper shrimp, shrimp soup, shrimp stew, shrimp salad, shrimp and potatoes, shrimp burger, shrimp sandwich. That--that's about it."
(Bubba in *Forrest Gump*, 1994)

**Polysyndeton**

"It's [football] a way of life, really, to those particular people who are a part of it. It's more than a game, and regardless of what level it's played upon, it still demands those attributes of courage **and** stamina **and** coordinated efficiency **and** goes even beyond that **for** [it] is a means -- it provides a mental and physical relaxation to everybody that watches it, like yourself."

-- Vince Lombardi

* "[I]t is respectable to have no illusions--and safe--and profitable--and dull."
(Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim*, 1900)
* "By seven o'clock the orchestra has arrived, no thin five-piece affair, but a whole pitful of oboes and trombones and saxophones and viols and cornets and piccolos, and low and high drums. The last swimmers have come in from the beach now and are dressing upstairs; the cars from New York are parked five deep in the drive, and already the halls and salons and verandas are gaudy with primary colors, and hair shorn in strange new ways, and shawls beyond the dreams of Castile. The bar is in full swing, and floating rounds of cocktails permeate the garden outside, until the air is alive with chatter and laughter, and casual innuendo and introductions forgotten on the spot, and enthusiastic meetings between women who never knew each other's names."
(F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, 1925)

**Parenthesis**

* "My very photogenic mother died in a freak accident (picnic, lightning) when I was three."
(Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*, 1955)
* "In the valley of the jolly--ho-ho-ho!--Green Giant."
(commercial jingle for Green Giant foods)

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* You are free to execute your laws, and your citizens, as you see fit."
(*Star Trek: The Next Generation*)
* "She arrived in a taxi and a flaming rage."
(John Lyons, *Semantics*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1977)
* "We were partners, not soul mates, two separate people who happened to be sharing a menu and a life."
(Amy Tan, *The Hundred Secret Senses*. Ivy Books, 1995)
* "[H]e was alternately cudgelling his brains and his donkey when, passing the workhouse, his eyes encountered the bill on the gate."
(Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*)