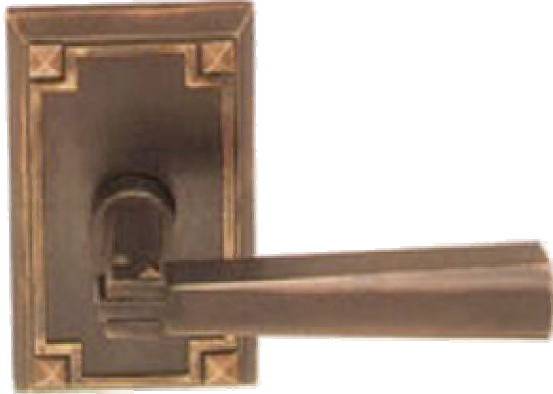


Activity: an educational procedure designed to stimulate learning by firsthand experience.

Example: an interpreter teaching about the Lewis and Clark expedition has a cloth tape measure cut to the circumference of a tree recorded in the journals. Audience members hold the tape measure and form themselves into a circle, using their bodies to recreate the tree's girth.

Example: very young kids toss velcro "plankton" at a giant fuzzy coral polyp to demonstrate one source of nutrition for these animals.



People learn better when they are actively involved in the learning process. Consider that people retain about 10% of what they hear, 30% of what they read, 50% of what they see, and 90% of what they do.

Allegory is an elaborate literary form in which the characters, events, or setting of a story is understood to represent something else. An allegory is a kind of extended metaphor, telling two stories at once: the surface narrative and a more meaningful subtext.

Example from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard:

If you want to live, you have to die; you cannot have mountains and creeks without space, and space is a beauty married to a blind man. The blind man is Freedom, or Time, and he does not go anywhere without his great dog Death.

Example from *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold:

There is an allegory for historians in the diverse functions of saw, wedge, and axe.

The saw works only across the years, which it must deal with one by one, in sequence. From each year the raker teeth pull little chips of fact, which accumulate in little piles, called sawdust by woodsmen and archives by historians; both judge the character of what lies within by the character of the samples thus made visible without. It is not until the transect is completed that the tree falls, and the stump yields a collective view of a century. By its fall the tree attests the unity of the hodge-podge called history.

The wedge, on the other hand, works only in radial splits; such a split yields a collective view of all the years at once, or no view at all, depending on the skill with which the plane of the split is chosen.

The axe functions only at an angle diagonal to the years, and this only for the peripheral rings of the recent past. Its special function is to lop limbs, for which both saw and wedge are useless.

The three tools are requisite to good oak, and to good history.

Alliteration: Alliteration is the repetition of initial vowels or consonants.

Example by Chip Campbell, *Okefenokee Adventures*:

Okefenokee burns. The **flames flash** through **titi tangles** and **blast the bay trees and blackgums**, then drop and creep, chewing into the peat floor of the swamp itself.

Examples from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard:

The horsehair worm, for instance, wriggling so serenely near the surface, is the survivor of an impossible series of squeaky escapes.

Sea water seems suddenly to be but a broth of barnacle bits.



Well-crafted language can slow readers down and encourage them to pay more attention to the sentence.

Allusion: An allusion is an indirect mention, often a reference to a well-known saying or fact without quoting exactly or spelling it out.

Example: Aldo Leopold alludes to Don Quixote in *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There*:

We tilt windmills in behalf of conservation in convention halls and editorial offices, but on the back forty we disclaim even owning a lance.

Analogy: the comparison of two pairs which have the same relationship. The key is to ascertain the relationship between the first so you can choose the correct second pair. In the first example below, the partridge is to the dog what gold is to a prospector.

Example from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard:

(Regarding evolution) Say you are the manager of the Southern Railroad. You figure that you need three engines for a stretch of track between Lynchburg and Danville. It's a mighty steep grade. So at fantastic effort and expense you have your shops make nine thousand engines. Each engine must be fashioned just so, every rivet and bolt secure, every wire twisted and wrapped, every needle on every indicator sensitive and accurate. * You send all nine thousand of them out on the runs. Although there are engineers at the throttles, no one is manning the switches. The engines crash, collide, derail, jump, jam, burn... At the end of the massacre you have three engines, which is what the run could support in the first place. There are few enough of them that they can stay out of each others' paths. * You go to your board of directors and show them what you've done. And what are they going to say? You know what they're going to say. They're going to say: It's a hell of a way to run a railroad.

Is it a better way to run a universe?

Example from *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* by Aldo Leopold:

The dog, when he approaches the briars, looks around to make sure I am within gunshot. Reassured, he advances with stealthy caution, his wet nose screening a hundred scents for that one scent, the potential presence of which gives life and meaning to the whole landscape. He is the prospector of the air, perpetually searching its strata for olfactory gold. Partridge scent is the gold standard that relates his world to mine.



Freeman Tilden wrote
"Interpretation...
aims to reveal
meanings and
relationships..."

Analysis: separation of a whole into its component parts.

Example from Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*:

If you analyze a molecule of chlorophyll itself, what you get is one hundred thirty-six atoms of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen arranged in an exact and complex relationship around a central ring. At the ring's center is a single atom of magnesium. Now: if you remove the atom of magnesium and in its exact place put an atom of iron, you get a molecule of hemoglobin.

Anecdote: a short narrative of an interesting, amusing, or biographical incident.

Example from *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* by Aldo Leopold:

I experienced a minor irritation myself when I arrived at a 'port of entry' on the northern California border, where my car and baggage were searched by a quarantine officer. He explained politely that California welcomes tourists, but that he must make sure their baggage harbors no plant or animal pests. He recited a long list of prospective garden and orchard afflictions, but he did not mention the yellow blanket of cheat, which already extended from his feet to the far hills in every direction.

Anthropomorphism: the act of attributing human forms or qualities to entities which are not human (see personification.)

Aphorism: a memorable definition of a principle or pithy statement of some insight.

Example from *Walden and Other Writings* by Henry David Thoreau:

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.

Apostrophe: when an absent person, an abstract concept, or an important object is directly addressed.

Example: with how sad steps. O moon. thou climbest the skies.

Artifact: an object providing tangible evidence of a culture or civilization.

Example: an exhibit which interprets a frontier settlement may include authentic arrowheads, clay pipes and hand-made nails.

Arts and Crafts: the creation of useful, decorative or illustrative products.

Example: during Women's History Month at Biscayne National Park, audience members weave palm fronds into small mats, while learning about the life of pioneer women in South Florida.



Freeman Tilden wrote, "Interpretation addressed to children should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program."

Assignment: a specified task.

Example: on a guided tour of a historic house, the interpreter gives the children in the group an assignment. She asks them to look for desert animals that are carved into the building architecture and furnishings. The children are congratulated for their findings, and the animals found are worked into the narrative of the guided tour.

Assonance: the repetition of vowel sounds but not consonant sounds.

Example from "Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe:

And so, all the night tide, I lie down by the side
Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride...

At-the-place: using the actual location of historic event as a staging area for discussion or reflection of that event.

Example: an interpreter leads a group of visitors to a field where a Union camp had been ambushed by Confederate forces. The visitors can better understand the details and significance of the field's battle by being immersed in the actual geographic setting.

Before and After: a comparison of relationships, resources, or persons prior to, and following, a specific point in time.

Example by Shelby Foote, Civil War Historian:

Before the war, it was said, "The United States are..." Grammatically, it was spoken that way and thought of as a collection of independent states. After the war, it was always 'the United States *is*...' as we say today without being self conscious at all. And that sums up what the war accomplished. It made us an "is".

Beginning and Ending Cohesion: The conclusion's reinforcement of the introduction. The example below is the first and last paragraph of a letter.

Example from "Mr. Day's Dismissal" by Rachel Carson:

The dismissal of Mr. Albert M. Day as director of the Fish and Wildlife Service is the most recent of a series of events that should be deeply disturbing to every thoughtful citizen.

It is one of the ironies of our time that, while concentrating on the defense of our country against enemies from without, we should be so heedless of those who would destroy it from within.



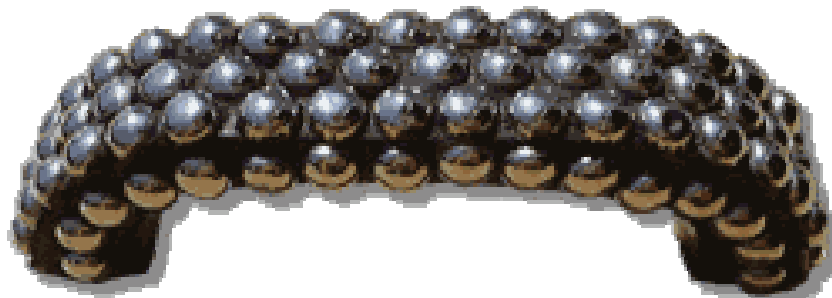
Techniques that are not applied to resource meanings do not serve as handles.

Body Language: Body language refers to the communication of ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized gestures, postures, and actions.

Example: an interpreter establishes rapport with audience members by using good eye contact, exhibiting open and non-threatening postures, and maintaining appropriate distances.

Body Movement: changes in position and posture of the human body.

Example: an interpreter is teaching how various animals deal with a deep snowfall. He accompanies his narrative with appropriate postures, gestures, and movement.



Are the techniques selected appropriate for your audience?

Brainstorming: a group problem-solving technique that involves the spontaneous contribution of ideas from all members of the group.

Example: an interpreter is giving a talk to a group on a remote island. He asks the group, "If you were stationed to work as a lighthouse keeper out here one hundred years ago, what kind of things might you want to bring from the mainland?"

Buzz Groups: assemblages of people tasked with discussing specific issues.

Example: an interpreter wants the audience to think about the pros and cons of removing feral horses from the island. In order to give everyone an opportunity to express their views, he breaks the audience up into groups of 4 and allows the groups to discuss the question among themselves.

Cacophony: harsh, discordant sounds. In the example below, the technique reinforces the visual and conceptual image of the cypress.

Example by Chip Campbell, Okefenokee Adventures:

Cypresses are tough trees, survivors of the cataclysm that killed the dinosaurs. They heal their wind-broken limbs but recoil from the insult, the new growth contorting in baroque angles and oblong diameters, driven by an internal geometry unique to cypress.

Caesura: a natural pause or break.

Example from *An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard,;

Crystals grew inside rock like arithmetic flowers. They lengthened and spread, added plane to plane in an awed and perfect obedience to an absolute geometry that even stones - **maybe only the stones** - understood.

Call and response: a style of singing in which an individual or group responds to or echoes the melody sung by one singer.

Example: an interpreter engages the audience during a program on bears by using this classic song, perhaps changing some words to convey a resource protection message:

Interpreter (call):	Audience (response):
The other day	The other day
I met a bear	I met a bear
A great big bear	A great big bear
Away up there	Away up there

All together: The other day I met a bear, a great big bear away up there.

Cause and effect: a precipitating situation and the result it induces.

Example from "The Acre" by Amy Glowacki, NPS:

The Great Depression of the 1930s hit Lowell hard, especially affecting residents in the Acre. Textile mills closed and workers suffered from massive layoffs and deteriorating neighborhoods. The destruction of tenements, restaurants, and shops to the urban wrecking ball dramatically changed the face of the Acre as many people, especially the Greeks, were forced to move elsewhere.

Character: one of the persons of a drama.

Example: in a story about a village that surrounded an iron furnace, an interpreter presents, describes, and develops the distinctive qualities of an actual or hypothetical person in order to help audience members understand how furnace issues might have affected individual civilians.



**Appropriate
Techniques
help create
opportunities
for
intellectual
and
emotional
connections**

Chronology: an arrangement in order of occurrence.

Example: an interpreter narrates the sequence of political events that led to the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Commentary: an expression of opinion.

Example from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard:

Nature is, above all, profligate. Don't believe them when they tell you how economical and thrifty nature is, whose leaves return to the soil. Wouldn't it be cheaper to leave them on the tree in the first place? This deciduous business alone is a radical scheme, the brainchild of a deranged manic-depressive with limitless capital. Extravagance! Nature will try anything once.

Compare and Contrast: an examination of two or more items to establish similarities and dissimilarities.

Example from *Environmental Education* by Sam H. Ham:

These two pine trees are a lot alike. Both have three needles to a group, and they grow in the same kinds of places. But if you smell the bark, you'll notice that one of them smells like vanilla and the other like turpentine.

Conjecture: to form a conclusion deduced by surmise or guesswork.

Example: at the birth home of a U.S. president, an interpreter talks about how the infant's grandmother was first to hold the baby. He asks the group if they have ever held a newborn, and wondered what the future held for it. He then proceeds to conjecture about what the infant's grandmother might have thought about her grandson's future.



**Appropriate
Techniques
help the
audience to
grasp
concepts and
meanings**

Context: Relating the unfamiliar to what is familiar.

Example from *Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain:

De Soto saw (the Mississippi River) in 1542... The date standing by itself means little or nothing to us; but when one groups a few neighboring historical dates and facts around it, he adds perspective and color...for instance, when the Mississippi was first seen by a white man, less than a quarter of a century had elapsed since... the death of Raphael... Catherine de Medici was a child; Elizabeth of England was not yet in her teens...Shakespeare was not yet born...

Contrived Situation: an artificial combination of circumstances.

Examples from *Environmental Interpretation* by Sam H. Ham:

Demonstrate the need for forest conservation by making up a story about a town in which there is no such thing as wood or wood products; go forward or back in time; pose a hypothetical problem or set up an illustrative situation (e.g., "What would life on earth be like if its average temperature increased just 5 degrees C?" or "What if there were no predators?")



Appropriate Techniques are tangible/intangible links that are significantly and intentionally elaborated upon by the interpreter

Conversation: the oral exchange of sentiments, observations, opinions, or ideas. In conversation, the roles of the sender and receiver of information often switch frequently and quickly.

Example: an interpreter and a visitor enter into an informal conversation in a park cemetery. The visitor shares insight into family and community relationships that adds significance to several of the burials, while learning from the interpreter some administrative background of the site.

Critique: a critical estimate, discussion, or review.

Example: an interpreter dons several clothing items that label him as a buffoon, and pretends to be teaching a group of young scouts how to safely build a campfire. He makes obvious mistakes. After the lesson, he resumes his role as a ranger and leads the scouts in a critique of the lesson.

Cultural Reference: an allusion to the customary beliefs, social forms, or material traits of a racial, religious, or social group.

Example by Rachel Carson:

Polynesian navigators steering across the South Pacific from atoll to atoll, find their way by the cloud rising like a kite from each pinpoint of warm land.