

Elements of Chiasmus

Chiasmus is a literary device in which the grammar of one phrase is inverted in the phrase that follows, so two key **concepts** from the original phrase reappear in the second phrase in inverted order.

Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. (J.F. Kennedy)

The reversal of the words in a chiasmus emphasize the concepts and draw the reader or listener's attention to them. There are three key things to remember about chiasmus:



The concepts that are repeated can be synonymous or contrasting.



Chiasmus always includes an inversion of words or concepts.



The concepts in the two sides of a chiasmus are always related.

DIRECTIONS: Find a chiasmus in the assigned text. Write it below.
