



METALANGUAGE GLOSSARY

METALANGUAGE	EXAMPLES	POSSIBLE PURPOSES AND IMPACTS/EFFECTS
humour the quality of being amusing, through the use of puns, irony, sarcasm, satire, wit, etc.	'George Dubya Bush and his weapons of mass distraction' 'Clive Palmer and Joe Hockey came out of the room looking like a couple of lovestruck Cheshire cats.'	
imagery and figurative language use of images and metaphorical (non-literal) language to illustrate points and make comparisons: similes, metaphors, etc.	'Australia is a fabric woven of many colours.' (metaphor) 'Citizenship was tossed around like confetti.' (simile) 'Bodies were piled up in makeshift roadside graves and in gutters.' (imagery)	
inclusive and exclusive language use of personal pronouns (I, you, we, they, their, our, etc.) to either involve (inclusive) or distinguish/alienate (exclusive)	'We all have a role to play to conserve our precious resources' (inclusive – positive) 'We are destroying this planet all by ourselves' (inclusive – negative) 'their poor policies' (exclusive – alienating) 'They had their own laws, their own beliefs.' (exclusive – distinguishing)	
irony humour found in contradictory situations, often highlighted through the use of sarcasm	'The war on terror has produced a volatile environment more susceptible to terrorist forces' 'In order to ensure our freedoms, more control is required'	
logic reason; the use of justifiable and valid arguments to sway an audience	'Research has proven that a prison term for a minor offence hampers rehabilitation; therefore we must adopt a new approach, as locking people up simply does not work.'	
noun naming word or phrase	'an Australian legend' 'terrorist' versus 'freedomfighter'	
repetition reuse of words or phrases for effect	'We cannot imagine the horrors they faced; cannot imagine the strength of their spirit. And we cannot allow it to happen again.' Martin Luther King Jr's famous repetition of 'I have a dream' in his 1963 address	

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rhetorical question question that does not require an answer because the answer is obvious or implied	'Did anyone listen to the garbage he was spouting? Was anyone awake? And do I really have to wait another four years for this baboon to leave office?' 'And why do we do this? Because we are fair.'	
sarcasm use of irony to mock or show contempt, by implying the opposite of what is actually said	'Great – we can now look forward to longer ticket queues, sweatier rides and more train rage. I for one am excited beyond belief.' 'Why stop at 30 students to a class when we can cram in at least 15 more?'	
satire use of either exaggeration or caricature to expose, criticise or ridicule	television programs such as <i>The Simpsons</i> and <i>Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell</i> are satirical in nature political cartoons	
sensationalism use of provocative language and images, and exaggeration	'Overseas fee-paying students stealing our university places!' 'Juvenile joyriders terrorise community!' 'Miley Cyrus "exposed" again!'	
sound and sound effects use of music, effects and other audio to enhance a multimodal text	background music during a current affairs report to create a particular mood; song playing on a website to associate a product with a particular mood or demographic	
verb 'doing' word or phrase	'she sprayed her response at the audience' 'As he staggered down the aisle it became clear – he had lost all control.'	
vocabulary choice careful selection of particular words – nouns, verbs and adjectives – with a positive or negative connotation	'terrorist' versus 'freedom fighter' 'health issue' versus 'health crisis'	

