

Antithesis

ANTITHESIS is when you disagree with one idea and agree with another.

For example:

You can take the girl out of Batchelor, but you can't take Batchelor out of the girl.

There are two parts, two ideas in an ANTITHESIS.

You are saying 'no' to one idea and 'yes' to the other one.

ANTI is *what you are against* THESIS is *what you are for*

Usually you put the 'no' first, but not always.

Examples

Here are some more examples:

Holden Astra: performance is a right, not a privilege

You're not an American, you're a victim of America.

Come to Batchelor if you want to study, don't come if you just want to drink.

No, we've never seen democracy. All we have seen is hypocrisy.

We don't see no American dream. All we've seen is the American nightmare.

Plato thought that we need academic knowledge to make good decisions, but

Aristotle says we need experience and good judgement.

Don't imitate, innovate.

This whole poem based on antithesis by **Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker)**. Almost every line is an Antithesis. Notice the 'not's and 'but's - these are signs of antithesis

Aboriginal charter of rights

We want hope, not racialism,

Brotherhood, not ostracism.

Black advance, not white ascendance:

Make us equals, not dependents.

We need help, not exploitation,

We want freedom, not frustration;

Not control, but self-reliance,

Independence, not compliance,

Not rebuff, but education,

Self-respect, not resignation.

Free us from a mean subjection,

From a bureaucrat Protection.

Let's forget the old-time slavers:

Give us fellowship, not favours;

Encouragement, not prohibitions.

Homes, not settlements and missions.

We need love, not overlordship,

Grip of hand, not whip-hand wardship;

Opportunity that places

White and black on equal basis.

You dishearten, not defend us,

Circumscribe, who should befriend us.

Give us welcome, not aversion,

Give us choice, not cold coercion,

Status, not discrimination,

Human rights, not segregation.

You the law, like Roman Pontius,

Make us proud, not colour-conscious;

Give the deal you still deny us,

Give goodwill, not bigot bias;

Give ambition, not prevention,

Confidence, not condescension;

Give incentive, not restriction,

Give us Christ, not crucifixion.

Though baptised and blessed and Bibled

We are still tabood and libelled.

You devout Salvation-sellers,

Make us neighbours, not fringe-dwellers;

Make us mates, not poor relations,

Citizens, not serfs on stations.

Must we native Old Australians

In our land rank as aliens?

Banish bans and conquer caste,

Then we'll win our own at last.

—*Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker)*

Your turn

Invent an ANTITHESIS. Your job is to say 'no' to one idea and 'yes' to another.

1. Adult Literacy is, not

.....

2. There are two ways to look at adult literacy.

On one hand, it

On the other hand, it

3. Adult literacy is not just a matter of,

it is also a matter of

Antithesis+Anaphora

Now, we come to Mick Dodson's special text pattern. He is a master of it.

We will add ANTITHESIS and ANAPHORIC ISOCOLON together to make an even longer and more powerful statement. This combined pattern is very powerful.

Here is some examples from Mick Dodson:

*Our Native Title **is not** a mere matter of real estate,
it is the source of who we are,
it's about our spirituality,
it's about our history,
it's about our experience,
it's about our world view.*

Can you see and hear the pattern? It is made up of two parts.

First, there is the ANTITHESIS:

*Our Native Title **is not** a mere matter of real estate,
it is the source of who we are,*

Then, there is the ANAPHORIC ISOCOLON (repeated pattern with the same beginning):

*it's about our spirituality,
it's about our history,
it's about our experience,
it's about our world view.*

Your turn

Adult Literacy is not just about ...

It is about ...

It is about ...

It is about ...

