

# Harlot: A Revealing Look at the Arts of Persuasion

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## #DefineRhetoric

Harlot Editors

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# #DefineRhetoric



We're delighted to share the results of our Twitter challenge to #DefineRhetoric. Since April, friends of *Harlot* have generously created, collected, and tweeted their favorite versions of the always-disputed definitions of rhetoric, that harlot of the arts. Many thanks to everyone who got involved! There were so many great contributions that we can't list them all here, but we wanted to share some of the wealth of honorable mentions as well as the winners. As you can see, the results are varied and awesome. We picked our favorites—let us know yours!

## The Winners

First Place — *Rhetoric is a bag of Halloween candy, sometimes you get the good stuff and sometimes you get apples with razor blades.* [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Second Place — *"The entire range of resources that human beings share for producing effects on one another—Wayne C. Booth* [@cdmandrews](#)

Third Place — *"Listen to me!" says my niece while holding my face in her hands.* [@denisejeannee](#)

Fourth Place — *Well... that depends... who's asking?* [@OccupyRhetoric](#)

## And the Contenders (in no particular order)

Rhetoric is a selection and deflection of reality. (Inspired by Burke.) [@cdmandrews](#)

“Listen to me!” says my niece while holding my face in her hands. [@denisejeannee](#)

The Borg had it all wrong. Resistance is rhetoric. [@LouFisto](#)

Rhetoric is like the moon. It is, at present, synchronously oriented to the rotation of another body around which it orbits. [@Schmeggelz](#)

Rhetoric is discourse in lingerie. [@soundb0mb3r](#)

Rhetoric isn't what you thought it was. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Rhetoric is a pun on causality. [@postsilence](#)

Rhetoric: Don't get it wet or feed it after midnight. [@LouFisto](#)

Rhetoric = Wearing too much eyeliner after he leaves you. [@donorahillard](#)

Rhetoric is a bag of Halloween candy, sometimes you get the good stuff and sometimes you get apples with razor blades. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

The role of rhetoric is convincing people of the truth so they can dismiss their ignorance. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

#definerrhetoric: utterly the bass line in Lou Reed's "Walk On the Wild Side." Tonight anyway [@thatssomcginnis](#)

Rhetoric is the realization you just got bamboozled, outwitted, or amazed—or all three at the same time [@TheOriginalRock](#)

“Nothing about this cigarette, packaging, or color should be interpreted to mean safer.” [@donorahillard](#)

Rhetoric is figuring out how to use Twitter without looking like a "digital immigrant." [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Rhetoric depends on how close you pay attention to what was said. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Eventually someone will come who understands [@donorahillard](#)

The role of rhetoric is convincing people of the truth so they can dismiss their ignorance. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Rhetoric is what you said vs. what they heard. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

So it's basically me screaming "Black Cream" into a little box all day long [@donorahillard](#)

Rhetoric is I know you are but what am I [@OccupyRhetoric](#)

Rhetoric: what is used when truth is on your side, against it or simply at stake [@occupyrhetoric](#)

Rhetoric is the art of spackling enthymemes [@postsilence](#)

Rhetoric is the selection and deflection of reality (inspired by burke) [@cmandrews](#)

"The entire range of resources that human beings share for producing effects on one another"- wayne c. booth [@cmandrews](#)

"Listen to me!" says my niece while holding my face in her hands. [@denisejeannee](#)

Rhetoric isn't [@dianekeeling](#)

Rhetoric is necessarily strange. It is the sharing of unfamiliar thoughts from foreign bodies. All else is choir-preaching. [@jimmy\\_butts](#)

"well that depends...who's asking?" [@occupyrhetoric](#)

Gesturing towards (or directly upon) an object so as to turn another's gaze upon it. Like you would if you saw a(n) \_\_\_\_\_. [@occupyrhetoric](#)

Rhetoric is something that is really hard to understand when you come in with a set definition, agenda, or perspective. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Rhetoric is a fancy label for the process and consequences of naming and framing reality. [@anokaydane](#)

#DefineRhetoric is an act of rhetoric itself, defined through action. Rhetoric outside of action is like Latin, dead on arrival. [@plcorbett](#)

Rhetoric can be the sun that takes away the fog, or it can be the fog... [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Rhetoric asks you, "How do YOU define rhetoric?" [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Rhetoric is the difference between preventing war and preparing for war. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Rhetoric is how you scare the crap out of people to make them do certain things or vote certain ways. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

μια ικανότητα που σε κάθε περίπτωση για να δείτε τα διαθέσιμα μέσα της πειθούς #AristotlewasThoughtNinja [@anokaydane](#)

"rhetoric' is at once an embedded cultural practice and an inventive attitude" #DanielGross [@anokaydane](#)

Rhetoric is the thing your mother warned you about... and she was right! [@TheOriginalRock](#)

People try to control it, people try to mis-define it, people try to rewrap it, but few actually understand it. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Rhetoric is knowing the power and the pain of words. [@TheOriginalRock](#)

Thanks for playing! Chime in below if you have additions, revisions, objections, etc. And stay tuned for next year's rematch...

Image credit: ["Twitter" by eldh on Flickr](#) by eldh on Flickr