

Development by Analogy

Analogy is a specific form of comparison; however, unlike literal comparison, the analogy simply uses a comparable point to develop another idea. Analogy is an extended figurative comparison. In other words, the writer compares the idea to be developed to an idea or concept that is normally dissimilar to the topic. The two most common types of analogies are the simile and the metaphor.

Evolution of a Mob

The emotion and action of a mob are like a flooding river. At first, the river is quiet and still, but as the rain continues to fall day by day and the waters rise higher, it begins to build up tremendous pressure. The river is no longer quiet. There is a murmur that grows in volume, louder and louder until finally the river breaks loose and surges over its banks, gathering in momentum as it goes, rolling over everything in its path, wrecking homes, killing people. When the rampage is over, the river is once more quiet and still, showing no signs of its late turmoil, unmindful of the damage it has caused. So it is with the mob. It is one of the most destructive instruments on earth when aroused. It loses all power of reason and can only follow its leaders, roaring, destroying everything in its path, until the individuality of its members reasserts itself. Then the mob begins to break up, to disperse itself; each member, going his own way, hardly remembers what the common bond was that held them together. Even the memory of what has happened finally disappears.

—Robin Otero

Prejudice Precludes Freedom

Prejudice is like prison life. Prejudice is a negative, unfavorable feeling, and a prison is an unpleasant place that is considered to be undesirable by most people. Prejudice is characterized by closed minds, and doors and gates of prisons are locked and guarded. Prejudice usually exists in an individual because of incorrect childhood examples and teaching, a lack of personal success and a feeling of frustration. The same can be said for the reasons prisons are needed. The majority of people there did not receive proper childhood training, and most of them are frustrated and unsuccessful, causing them to commit crimes against society. Both prejudice and prisons prevent people from enriching their lives through the freedom to experience new people and ideas. It is very difficult to change prejudice and prison inmates are not easily reformed. Persuasion does little to alter deep-rooted prejudices or to change the lives of prisoners. Prejudice, however, can be reduced by changing behavior, increasing social contacts, and by the introduction of successful working models of the group against which prejudice has been felt. Prisoners can also be helped through changing behavior patterns, improving social contacts, and work training programs that give their lives new purpose and direction. It is evident that being prejudiced is like living in a prison.

—Carla Harmon

Growth of a Child

A child and a tree are alike in many ways. Both begin life as seeds. A tree grows tall and thick each year. A child continues to mature also. To grow well, a tree must be suited to the region where it is planted. To develop properly, a child must be reared in a suitable environment. A tree should be planted where it will have enough room when it is fully grown. A child should have enough room to play, exercise, and grow to his or her full potential. A young tree must be kept well-watered until it is strongly rooted. A child must be well nourished because of his developing body. Pruning improves the shape of a tree. Discipline and education improve the child. Insects and diseases may attack a tree. A child's health is also affected by disease. In each case, proper care is needed. Much time and effort are needed in order for a tree to grow properly. So it is with a child. Both the well-cared-for, healthy tree and the child can give much pleasure to the person responsible for their growth.

—Margaret Rodgers