

SAMPLE

English 9

Mrs. Howe

18 January 2013

### Personification Through the Years

The anteater vacuumed up the ants, one by one, until none of them were left. You can create a detailed image in your mind by reading this sentence; but your brain doesn't see an anteater stand up and legitimately vacuum like a human would. Instead, it recognizes that the sentence is an example of the literary term: personification. When you read and come across an animal or object that is given human characteristics, that is a form of personification. In the past, US seminal documents have shown the use of personification throughout their content. The <sup>texts</sup> articles, "I Want to be Miss America", "Spirit of Liberty", and "Address to Students at Moscow State University" prove this statement true.

The first example of one of these historical documents is "I Want to be Miss America", written by a Dominican named Julia Alvarez. It's her memoir about when she moved to America and wanted so desperately to fit in with its culture. She, along with her family, watched the Miss America Pageant and was inspired by the beautiful, young Americans. "They stood, fifty puzzle pieces forming the pretty face of America" (Alvarez). The author is using puzzle pieces to describe how each contestant fits into the puzzle of America. This article also includes another example of personification: "We had long lives ahead of us in which to shave" (Alvarez). Your life is not really

being 'shaved' away, it is just an expression of personification. Texts may have one use of personification or multiple examples.

Another document, "Spirit of Liberty", written by Judge Learned Hand, includes hints of personification here and there as well. This context mainly talks about the impact World War II had on people. Its words were based upon liberty, freedom, and the soldiers. Judge Hand just wanted people to appreciate America! He uses personification when he states "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women..." (Hand). This statement explains 'Liberty' *lying* in the hearts of men and women. Liberty cannot physically lie in a heart, which is the reason why it is an example of personification. There are other documents such as "Spirit of Liberty" that also use this literary term.

Ronald Reagan used hints of personification in his speech, "Address to Students at Moscow State University". This document talks about the Technological Information Revolution and how one, tiny silicon chip helped to change the lives of many people. This article stated that robots also improved the skills of technology. Ronald Reagan describes this technological breakthrough by saying "...it's a very different revolution that is taking place right now, quietly sweeping the globe without bloodshed or conflict" (Reagan). In this sentence, the revolution is shown 'sweeping the globe'. 'Sweeping' is a human action, therefore, the 'revolution' is an example of personification.

The US seminal documents "I Want to be Miss America", "Spirit of Liberty", and "Address to Students at Moscow State University" use personification to help assist with the persuasive nature of such documents. In fact, many historical documents use literary ok devices to enhance their writing and to make it more interesting to read. You can also relate to the text more when you can visualize what

the author is portraying. It's important for an author to include literary terms, such as personification, because readers want to enjoy and understand what they are reading.

Works Cited

Julia Alvarez. "I Want to be Miss America". *Something New York: Same Thing to Declare*. 1999. A  
Plume Books, 1999. Print.

Hand, Learned  
Judge Learned Hand. "Spirit of Liberty". New York Central Park. May 21, 1944.  
Address.

Ronald Reagan. "Address to Students at Moscow State University," Moscow  
State University. May 31, 1988. Address