

## What's the Purpose? Examining a Cold Manipulation of Language

### Definition List

- **Details** – This term refers to specific details or examples that support your thesis, or main point, that you're trying to make. For example: My thesis: Romeo is a tragic hero. One detail to support that: He has a tragic flaw because he's impatient and rash when he kills Tybalt.
- **Figurative Language** – language or speech that should not be taken literally; place there to create a vivid description. For example: Magically, the young horse galloped like a king across the dark green field that seemed delighted at his presence.
- **Diction** – Word choice. For example: If you were to write, "You better shut up." I might suggest you correct your diction with, "It might behoove you to remain silent."
- **Syntax** – Sentence Structure; the way a sentence is organized. For example: These two sentences have a different syntax which makes them sound unique. Coming to class, Josh is often late. Josh is often late coming to class.
- **Tone** – writer's attitude towards a subject or audience. I'm using the first line from Kaye Gibbons' *Ellen Foster* as an example: "When I was little I would think of ways to kill my daddy. I would figure out this or that way and run it down through my head until it got easy." The tone of these sentences – cold, bitter