

Name _____

Date _____

Rhetorical Questions

A **rhetorical question** is a question posed by a writer or speaker that does not require or expect an answer. Instead of seeking information, rhetorical questions are used to emphasize a point, provoke thought, or create a dramatic effect.

Example:

Statement: The system is flawed.

Rhetorical Question: How can we call it justice when innocent people are punished?

By using a rhetorical question, the author creates a more dramatic and thought-provoking statement.

Read the injustice described below. Then, write a brief paragraph reflecting on the injustice. Use rhetorical questions to convey meaning and dramatic effect.

1. In a small town, a factory pollutes the local river, making the water unsafe to drink. The factory owners are aware of the damage but continue their operations, claiming that shutting down would hurt the economy and cost jobs. Meanwhile, the town's residents—especially the most vulnerable, like children and the elderly—suffer from illnesses caused by the contamination. The local government dismisses the residents' complaints, prioritizing the factory's profits over public health.

Paragraph with Rhetorical Questions:

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2. In many schools across the country, students in wealthy districts enjoy access to advanced technology, well-trained teachers, and enriching extracurricular programs. Meanwhile, students in poorer districts struggle with outdated textbooks, overcrowded classrooms, and limited resources. Despite promises of equality, the education system continues to widen the gap between the privileged and the disadvantaged.

Paragraph with Rhetorical Questions:

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Rhetorical Questions – Answer Key

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Paragraph with Rhetorical Questions:

How can we call this justice when people are forced to choose between their health and their livelihoods? Is it fair that the factory's profits are valued more than the well-being of the

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Rhetorical Questions – Answer Key

town's residents? Should children grow up drinking polluted water, knowing that those in power turned a blind eye to their suffering? And what about the future—how long can a community survive when its most basic needs are ignored? This is not just an environmental issue; it is a moral failure. If the factory can operate without consequences, then what does this say about our society's priorities?

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Paragraph with Rhetorical Questions:

Why should a child's zip code determine the quality of their education? How can we expect students to succeed when they don't even have the tools they need to learn? Is it acceptable for some schools to thrive while others barely scrape by? And what does this say about our society's commitment to fairness? Education is supposed to be the great equalizer, but when inequality is built into the system, how can we call it equal at all?