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AP English- 1

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Rhetorical Device Glossary #1

Term: List- a number of connected items or names written or printed consecutively.

Example: Boston “political radicalism,” New York “melting pot America,” Chicago “industrial energy,” Las Vegas “entertainment” (Postman 1-2).

Function: Postman begins “The Medium is the Metaphor” by introducing his claim that America is amusing itself to death by listing cultural centers that have represented America throughout our history. He starts off by listing Boston linking it to “political radicalism,” then introduces New York as the “melting pot of America,” next he connects Chicago as the capital of “industrial energy,” and finishes with Las Vegas representing “entertainment” (Postman 1-2). This chronological list is used to illustrate the progression of cultural focus from the American dream to entertainment. He also uses this list as an example to develop his abstract idea that America is amusing itself to death.