

EXERCISE 9-2 Parallelism

Describe the parallel structure in the following passages and discuss how the use of parallelism contributes to the effectiveness of each.

1. All respect we may have had for politicians, preachers, lawyers, governors, Presidents, senators, congressmen was utterly destroyed as we watched them temporizing and compromising over right and wrong, over legality and illegality, over constitutionality and unconstitutionality. —Eldridge Cleaver

2. I learned three important things in college—to use a library, to memorize quickly and visually, to drop asleep at any time given a horizontal surface and fifteen minutes. What I could not learn was to think creatively on schedule. —Agnes de Mille

3. Knowing others is wisdom; knowing the self is enlightenment. Mastering others requires force; mastering the self needs strength. —Lao-tzu

4. How can I love the man who raped my mother, killed my father, enslaved my ancestors, dropped atomic bombs on Japan, killed off the Indians, and keeps me cooped up in the slums? —Malcolm X

5. I don't want to achieve immortality through my work, I want to achieve it through not dying. —Woody Allen