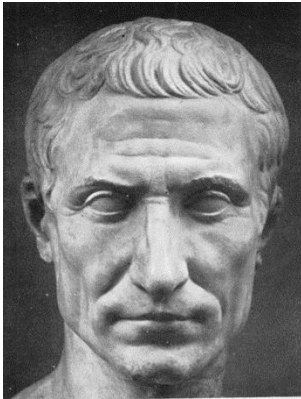


12 PARALLELISM

If two or more ideas in a sentence are equally important, they should be expressed in parallel grammatical form. Single words should be balanced with single words, phrases with phrases, and clauses with clauses. Parallelism, because of these balances, appeals to our logic and to our ears. This pleasing balance and logic means that parallelism is often used in poetry and rhetoric.

Parallel Words: **Extremism thrives amid ignorance and anger, intimidation and cowardice.** -Hillary Clinton

Non-Parallel: **Extremism thrives amid ignorance and with anger and because of intimidation and cowards.**



Parallel Phrases: **Abraham Lincoln spoke of a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”**

Non-Parallel: **Abraham Lincoln spoke of a government of the people, that the people had some say in creating, and really helps people out.**

Parallel Clauses: **Julius Caesar supposedly said, “I came; I saw; I conquered.”**

Non-Parallel: **Julius Caesar supposedly said, “I came, I saw, I did some conquering.”**

Some words signal a need for parallel construction. Whenever you join words, phrases, or clauses with coordinating conjunctions (**for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so**) be sure that they are in parallel form.

Parallel: **Change your thoughts, and you change your world.** –Norman Vincent Peale

Non-Parallel: **Change your thoughts, and that world around you will change, too.**

Similarly, use parallel structure with correlative conjunctions (**either...or; neither...nor; not only...but also; both...and**).

Parallel: **“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.”**–Anatole France

Non-Parallel: **To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also we should have dreams, not only plan, but believing helps, too.**