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### Rhetorical Analysis: A Modest Proposal

Through oppression and grief, strong voices can become muffled but satire always rings clear. In “A Modest Proposal”, Jonathan Swift uses irony and diction to introduce a seemingly preposterous idea. These rhetorical strategies aid in the understanding and comprehension of his proposal and allow Swift to express himself, free of preconceived judgement.

Swift begins his proposal discussing the bane of “helpless infants” on their mothers, demonstrating irony from the get-go. He continues this train of thought claiming the “prodigious number of children... in the deplorable state of the kingdom [are] a very great additional grievance.” This ideology is quite ironic because Swift, instead of asking the children to work as laborers (as expected from that statement), offers them a job in the kitchen: the main course. Furthermore, Swift goes on to criticize abortions and their inherent evil, stating, “Another great advantage in my scheme... will prevent those voluntary abortions, and that horrid practice of women murdering their bastard children.” Although this may appear to be a good thing, it is heavily ironic because the audience later learns Swift’s plan of murdering **and** eating the infants. Overall, Swift’s ironic voice warms the reader up to any proposition later introduced.

While irony grabs attention, diction and word choice holds onto it and molds a trustworthy essay. In preparation for the proposal, Swift builds an educated persona, using logos strategies to gain the reader's confidence in him. This is done through word choice such as "maturely weighed", "utterly impossible" and "deplorable". The connotations of said words give off a confident vibe and assure the reader Swift knows what he is talking about. Also, Swift manipulates statistics and facts to construct an authoritative and scholarly tone: "The number of souls in this kingdom... reckoned one million and a half... I calculate there may be about two hundred thousand couple whose wives are breeders; from which number I subtract thirty-thousand couple." All of this number-crunching and reference can wear down the reader into a state of thoughtless obedience and trust. All of this is done through diction and serves to smoothly introduce an unjust proposal.

In conclusion, Swift uses various rhetorical strategies to introduce his proposal, but two are forthright: irony and diction. This rhetoric develops his ideas in a comfortable manner and expresses his opinion without stating it directly. Overall, these factors cultivate the satirical masterpiece known as "A Modest Proposal."