

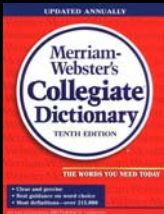
hermeneutic method

Richard is a lion  
The universe is a machine  
You are the salt of the earth

hermeneutic method

"The dog was the bomb."  
"I ate a dog in the park today."

hermeneutic method



1. Words are abstract (semiotic)

Dog

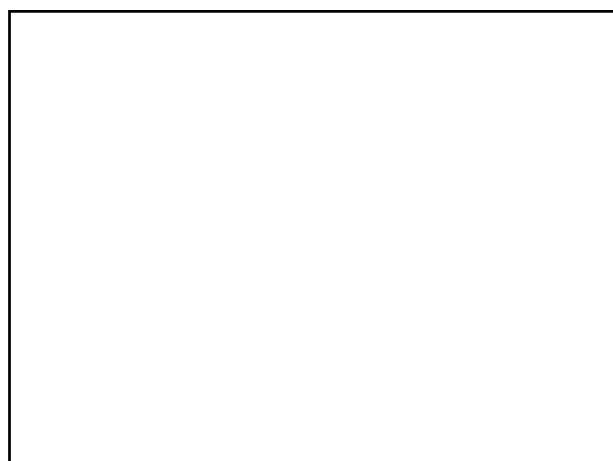
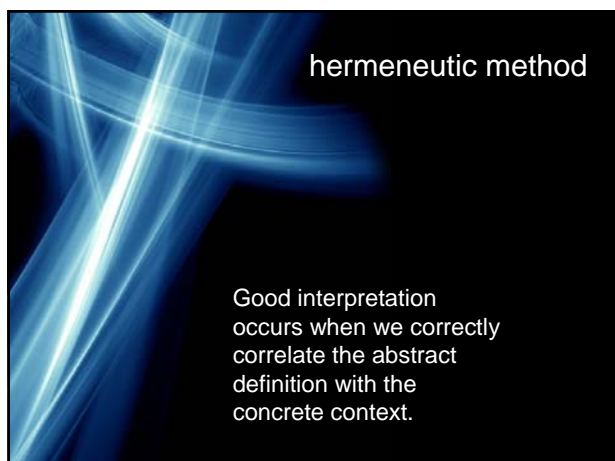
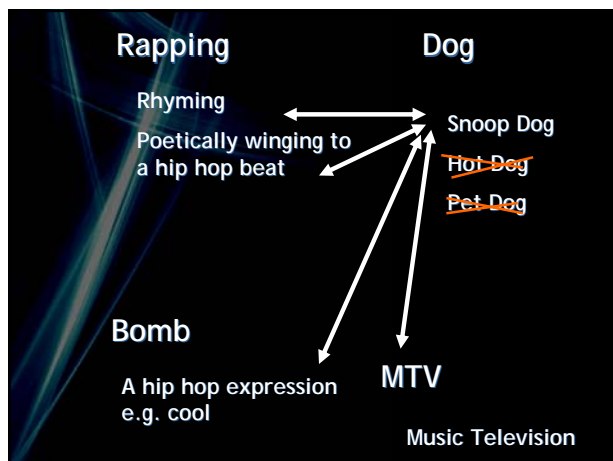
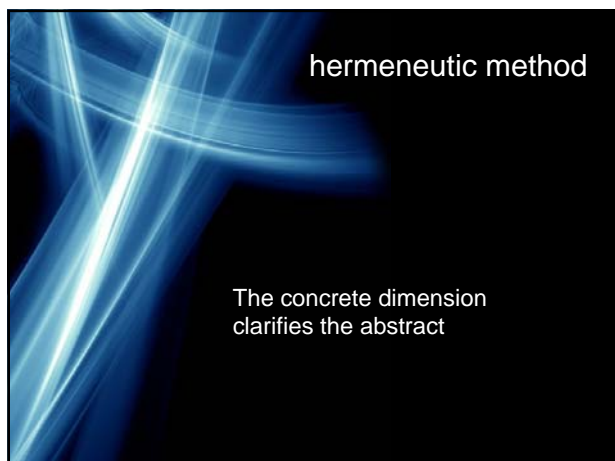
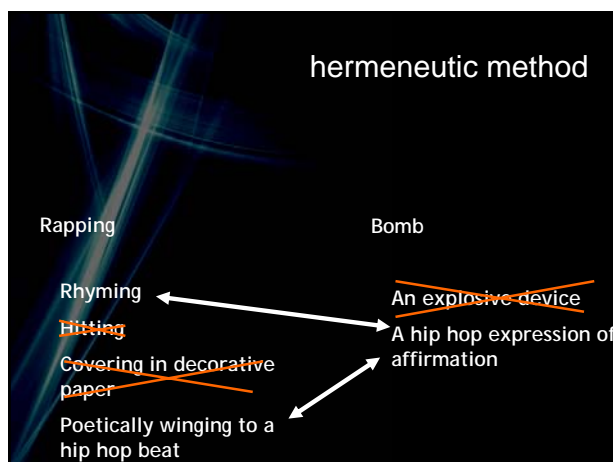
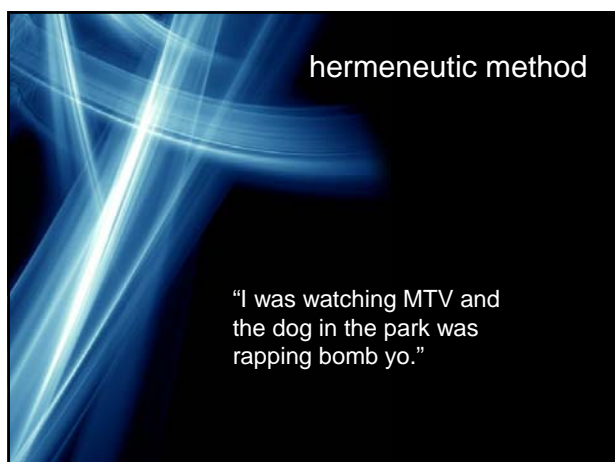


hermeneutic method

The abstract dimension of words gives them their range of possibility

hermeneutic method

2. Words are concrete (semantic)



deciphering god


What is meant by God?  
What is meant by religion?  
How do we really listen to what religious traditions are saying?

deciphering god

Hermeneutic Approach to Religious Phenomena

1. Careful analysis of the cultural linguistic symbols
2. Careful study of the contexts in which those symbols "make sense"
3. Limit irrelevant abstractions that do not relate to concrete contexts

deciphering god



Buddha

Allah

Vishnu

Jesus Christ

deciphering god

Separation between Church and State

Bush's favorite philosopher?

deciphering god

Small Group Discussion

Groups of 4-5  
Nominate a spokesperson  
Work through questions (you may not have time for all)



