

In the autobiography *Mind and Matter: A Life in Math and Football*, John Urschel and Louisa Thomas talk about the challenges John Urschel faced in life having opposing passions, Mathematician and football player. They use rhetorical devices juxtaposition and characterization to demonstrate the purpose of the writing. This book's purpose is to show that people should always do what makes them happy despite what others think.

The writing begins with the use of rhetorical device juxtaposition. "Many People see me as a walking contradiction." Urschel is a mathematician and a football player. These two occupations are commonly considered contradicting jobs. Mathematicians are supposed to be smart, and calculation, using reasoning and maths and football players are considered the complete opposite. Football players use their body and mathematicians use their minds. Urschel being both shows how two different halves can create a whole of a person.

Another rhetorical device he uses is characterization. The autobiography talks about how he developed into the person he is today. His love for math started because of his mother. "It began when I was a toddler, the age my mother started buying me puzzle books and workbooks ...". He talks about the development of his mathematician character and how it started with his mother's influence and development as he got older through his mentors. His dad influences the Football player character. "The other story is of my life in football, from the time I saw a picture of my father in pads." His father's influence is love for football, and his progression as a player taught him how to "strengthen my body and will." His writing develops his character as a by describing the two most important things that influenced him to become the person he is.

To convey the purpose of his writing that people should do what they believe makes them happy, he uses rhetorical appeal paths. He appeals to his audience's emotions by using his backstory of how hard it was to do what he loves while people talked about him and considered him and didn't believe in him. "They think that a strong interest in one makes a strong interest in the other improbable." This phrase particularly appeals to the audience because it influences them to believe that it is possible to go against social norms and be their own people.

The autobiography *MInd and MAtter: A life in Math and Football* uses rhetorical devices, juxtapositions, and characterization, and rhetorical appeal paths to convey the author's purpose that people should be allowed to do what makes them happy despite societal norms.