

AP ENGLISH III – THE VERNACULAR OF RHETORIC

Not only should you be able to define each word, you should be able to give an example and explain its relevance to reading/writing.

1. **Abstract** – refers to language that describes concepts rather than concrete images.
2. **Ad Hominem** – In an argument, this is an attack on the person rather than on the opponent's ideas. It comes from the Latin meaning "against the man." It is an example of a logical fallacy.
3. **Allegory** – a work that functions on a symbolic level.
4. **Alliteration** – the repetition of initial consonant sounds, such as "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers."
5. **Allusion** – a reference contained in a work.
6. **Altruism/altruistic** – The unselfish concern for or devotion to the welfare of others
7. **Ambiguity**- the multiple meanings, either intentional or unintentional, of a word, phrase, sentence or passage.
8. **Analogy** – a literary device employed to serve as a basis for comparison. It is assumed that what applies to the parallel situation also applies to the original circumstance. In other words, it is the comparison between two different items.
9. **Anecdote** – a story or brief episode told by the writer or a character to illustrate a point.
10. **Antecedent** – the word, phrase, or clause to which a pronoun refers.
11. **Antithesis** – the presentation of two contrasting images. The ideas are balanced by word, phrase, clause, or paragraphs. "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country...."
12. **Aphorism** – a terse statement of known authorship that expresses a general truth or moral principle
13. **Apostrophe** – a figure of speech that directly addresses an absent or imaginary person, or personified abstraction, such as liberty or love
14. **Archetype** – The original pattern or model from which all things of the same kind are copied or on which they are based; a model, or first form.
15. **Argument** – any text that expresses a point of view.
16. **Cacophony** – harsh and discordant sounds in a line or passage in a literary work.
17. **Caricature** – a verbal description, the purpose of which is to exaggerate or distort, for comic effect, a person's distinctive physical features or other characteristics.

18. **Character** – those who carry out the action of the plot in literature. Major, minor, static, and dynamic are types of characters.

18. **Colloquial** – the use of slang in writing, often to create local color and to provide an informal tone. *Huckleberry Finn* is written in a colloquial style.

20. **Comic relief** – the inclusion of a humorous character or scene to contrast with the tragic elements of a work, thereby intensifying the next tragic event.

21. **Conflict** – a clash between opposing forces in a literary work, such as man vs. man; man vs. nature; man vs. god; man vs. self.

22. **Connective tissue** – those elements that help create coherence in a written piece.

23. **Connotation** – the interpretive level of a work based on its associated images rather than its literal meaning.

24. **Deduction** – the process of moving from a general rule to a specific example. **For example:** All men are mortal. Socrates is a man. Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

25. **Anaphora** – The deliberate repetition of the first part of the sentence in order to achieve an artistic effect. Apart from the function of giving prominence to ideas, the use of anaphora in literature adds rhythm to it and thus, making it more pleasurable to read and easier to remember.

For example:

"We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender."

- Winston Churchill