

AP ENGLISH III – RHETORICAL/LITERARY VOCABULARY #3

1. **Logical Fallacy** – a mistake in reasoning. (Refer to the list I gave you about different types.) Example: Cows in India die in summer. More ice cream is consumed in the summer. Therefore, consumption of ice cream kills cows.
2. **Metonymy** – a figure of speech in which a representative term is used for a larger idea. Ex: The pen is mightier than the sword. Other examples can include the White House, the crown, Wall Street, etc.
3. **Motif** – the repetition or variations of an image or idea in a work used to develop theme or characters. An example would be the use of birds and bird names in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
4. **Onomatopoeia** – words that sound like the sound they represent (hiss, gurgle, pop, buzz).
5. **Oxymoron** – an image of contradictory terms (bittersweet, pretty ugly, jumbo shrimp).
6. **Parable** – a story that operates on more than one level and usually teaches a moral lesson.
7. **Parody** – a comic imitation of a work that ridicules the original. It can be utterly mocking or gently humorous. It depends on allusion and exaggerate and distorts the original style and content.
8. **Pedantic** – a term used to describe writing that borders on lecturing. It is scholarly and academic and often overly difficult and distant.
9. **Personification** – the assigning of human qualities to inanimate objects or concepts.
10. **Persuasion** – a type of argument that has as its goal an action on the part of the audience.
11. **Point of View** – the method of narration in a literary work.
12. **Prosaic** – commonplace, dull, especially language that doesn't 'sing, or sound inspired.
13. **Pun** – a play on words that often has a comic effect. Associated with wit and cleverness.
14. **Reductio ad Absurdum** – the Latin for “to reduce to the absurd.” This is a technique useful in creating a comic effect. It is considered a rhetorical fallacy, because it reduces an argument to an either/or choice.
15. **Rhetorical question** – one that does not expect an explicit answer. It is used to pose an idea to be considered by the speaker or audience.
16. **Sarcasm** – a comic technique that ridicules through caustic language. Tone and attitude may both be described as sarcastic in a given text if the writer employs language, irony, and wit to mock or scorn.
17. **Satire** – a mode of writing based on ridicule that criticizes the foibles and follies of society without necessarily offering a solution.
18. **Skeptic** – A person who questions the validity or the authenticity of something supposedly factual; one with a doubting attitude

- 19. Socratic Irony** – To feign ignorance in a conversation in order to take advantage of an opponent.
- 20. Style** – the unique way an author presents his ideas. Diction, syntax, imagery, structure, and content all contribute to a particular style.
- 21. Syllogism** – the format of a formal argument that consists of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion. It is a form of deductive reasoning.
- 22. Synecdoche** – a figure of speech that utilizes a part as representative of the whole. Ex: All hands on deck.
- 23. Syntax** – the grammatical structure of prose and poetry.
- 24. Synthesis** – locating a number of sources and integrating them into the development and support of a writer's thesis/claim.
- 25. Theme** – the underlying ideas the author illustrates through characterization motifs, language, plot, etc.
- 26. Tone** – the author's attitude toward his subject.
- 27. Voice** – can refer to two different areas of writing. One refers to the relationship between a sentence's subject and verb (active voice and passive voice). The second refers to the total "sound" of a writer's style.