**AP Terms: Words to Know**

Rhetorical Devices:

1. Asyndeton (uh-sin-di-ton )- the omission of conjunctions, as in “He has provided the poor with [Jobs](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Jobs), with opportunity, with [self-respect](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/self-respect).” I came, I saw, I conquered.
2. Antecedent- the word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun.
3. Antithesis: a figure of speech involving a seeming contradiction of ideas, words, clauses, or sentences withing a balanced grammatical structure. The resulting parallelism serve to emphasize opposition of ideas. The phrase “Man proposes, god disposes” in an example of this as is John Dryden’s “too black for heaven, and yet too white for hell”.
4. Polysyndeton (pol-ee-sin-di-ton)- the use of several conjunctions in close succession, esp where some might be omitted, as in *he ran and jumped and laughed for joy*
5. Anaphora (uh-naf-er-uh)- A [rhetorical term](http://grammar.about.com/od/terms/a/rhetermstype07.htm) for the [repetition](http://grammar.about.com/od/rs/a/repetitionterm.htm) of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive [clauses](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/clauseterm.htm). Example: *I needed* a drink, *I needed* a lot of life insurance, *I needed* a vacation, *I needed* a home in the country. What I had was a coat, a hat and a gun." (Raymond Chandler, *Farewell, My Lovely*). "*Of all* the gin joints *in all* the towns *in all* the world, she walks into mine." (Rick Blaine in *Casablanca*)
6. Anachronism (uh-nak-ruh-niz-uhm)- something or someone that is not in its correct historical or chronological time, esp. a thing or person that belongs to an earlier time: *The sword is an anachronism in modern warfare.* An error in chronology in which a person, object, event, etc., is assigned a date or period other than the correct one.
7. Synecdoche- A [figure of speech](http://grammar.about.com/od/fh/g/figuresterms.htm) in which a part is used to represent the whole. Example: All *hands* on deck; "The sputtering economy could make the difference if you're trying to get a deal on *a new set of wheels*." *White-collar* criminals.
8. Metonymy- A [figure of speech](http://grammar.about.com/od/fh/g/figuresterms.htm) in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated (such as "crown" for "royalty").Metonymy is also the rhetorical strategy of describing something indirectly by referring to things around it, such as describing someone's clothing to characterize the individual. Example: The White House asked the television networks for air time on Monday night; The suits on Wall Street walked off with most of our savings.
9. Apostrophe- a digression in the form of an address to someone not present, or to a personified object or idea, as “O Death, where is thy sting?”
10. Conundrum- a riddle whose answer is or involves a pun
11. Invective: a verbally abusive attack
12. circumlocution—the use of an unnecessarily large number of words or an indirect means of expression to express an idea so as to effect an evasion in speech
13. Adage: A saying or proverb embodying a piece of common wisdom based on experience and often couched in metaphorical language. (E.g. It is always darkest before the dawn.)
14. Cadence: The rising and falling rhythm of speech especially in free verse or prose.
15. Polyphrasis-excessive talking
16. Diatribe-a bitter, sharply abusive denunciation, attack, or criticism. A bitter and abusive speech or writing.
17. Juxtaposition: placing dissimilar items, descriptions, or ideas close together or side by side, especially for comparison or contrast.

Argumentative Terms:

1. Concession-An argumentative strategy by which a speaker or writer acknowledges the validity of an opponent's point
2. Refutation- The part of an argument wherein a speaker or writer anticipates and counters opposing points of view.
3. Assertion-a declaration that is made emphatically (as if no supporting evidence were necessary)

Important AP Vocabulary (includes Tone words):

1. Implacable-not to be appeased, mollified, or pacified; inexorable
2. Mitigate-to become milder; lessen in severity
3. Eclectic-not following any one system, as of philosophy, medicine, etc., but selecting and using what are considered the best elements of all systems
4. Stymie-to hinder, block, or thwart
5. Avarice-insatiable greed for riches; inordinate, miserly desire to gain and hoard wealth
6. Urbane-having the polish and suavity regarded as characteristic of sophisticated social life in major cities: *an urbane manner.* Reflecting elegance, sophistication, etc., esp. in expression: *He maintained an urbane tone in his letters.*
7. Ingenuous-free from reserve, restraint, or dissimulation; candid; sincere; artless; innocent; naïve; frank, straightforward; guileless
8. Onerous-(**on**-er-*uh*s)-burdensome, oppressive, or troublesome; causing hardship
9. Discretion- noun- cautious reserve in speech; ability to make responsible decisions (adj. discreet)
10. Burgeon- verb- to grow rapidly or flourish
11. Ubiquitous- adjective- existing everywhere at the same time; constantly encountered; wide-spread
12. Heretical- adj. violating accepted dogma or convention (noun- heresy)
13. Vilify- verb- to defame; to characterize harshly
14. Dogmatic- adjective- expressing a rigid opinion based on unproved or improvable principles (noun- dogma)
15. Perennial- adjective- recurrent through the year or many years; happening repeatedly
16. Magnanimity- noun- the quality of being generously noble in mind and heart, especially in forgiving (adj. magnanimous)
17. Truculent- adjective- fierce and cruel; eager to fight
18. Eccentric- adjective- departing from norms or conventions
19. Convoluted- adjective- complex or complicated
20. Misanthrope- noun- one who hates all other humans (adj. misanthropic)
21. Hedonism- noun- devotion to pleasurable pursuits, esp. to the pleasures of the senses (hedonist is person who pursues pleasure)
22. Abscond- to depart suddenly and secretly, as for the purpose of escaping arrest.
23. Verbiage- use of many words without necessity
24. Vituperate- to overwhelm with wordy abuse.
25. aberration- deviation from a right, customary, or prescribed course
26. acumen- quickness of intellectual insight, or discernment; keenness of discrimination
27. erudite- very-learned
28. loquacious- talkative
29. nefarious- wicked in the extreme
30. Archaic- adjective- outdated; associated with an earlier, perhaps more primitive, time
31. Pedagogy- noun- the profession or principles of teaching, or instructing
32. Obsequious- adjective- exhibiting a fawning attentiveness
33. Obdurate- adjective- unyielding; hardhearted; intractable
34. Impassive- adjective- revealing no emotion
35. Obtuse- adjective- lacking sharpness of intellect; not clear or precise in thought or expression
36. Bucolic- adjective- rustic and pastoral; characteristic of rural areas and their inhabitants
37. Stoic- adjective- indifferent to or unaffected by pleasure or pain; steadfast (noun stoicism)
38. Exacerbate- verb- to make worse or more severe