**AP Terms**

**The following is a basic list of terms that you should know! These will be used on the AP exam in the multiple choice section and in the instructions.**

***Rhetorical Terms having to do with argumentation:***

**Assertion:** an opinion stated as a fact--the basis of all arguments. Assertions are always arguable.

**Assumption**: an unspoken opinion, perspective or belief taken for granted without proof.

**Claim:** the main assertion of an argument; the point of an argument backed up by support.

**Counterargument**: a challenge to a position; an opposing argument.

**Digression:** getting off the point of an argument, sometimes done intentionally for effect.

**Generalization:** a conclusion drawn from a number of particular examples; an assertion about a group or class.

**Hypothesis:** an unproved theory; a proposed explanation that needs to be tested.

**Qualification**: to modify, restrict or limit. A qualification of an assertion or claim means that you agree in part, or you wish to redefine or reshape the assertion.

**Refutation:** the part of an argument in which the speaker anticipates objections to the points being raised and counters them. To refute is to discredit an argument.

**Rebuttal:** giving evidence that refutes an opposing argument.

***Rhetorical Terms having to do with syntactical constructions/patterns:***

**Antithesis:** the juxtaposition (placing side by side) of opposing or contrasting words or ideas, in parallel structure. "Place your virtues on a pedestal; put your vices under a rock."

**Balanced (**phrases, clauses, ideas): two equal words, phrases, clauses or sentences.

**Clause:** a group of words containing a subject and a verb.

**Complex Sentence**: sentence containing an independent clause and a subordinate clause.

**Compound Sentence:** sentence containing two independent clauses.

**Oxymoron:** juxtaposed words (words placed side by side) with seemingly opposite meanings. "jumbo shrimp," “thundering silence.”

**Parallelism:** a set of similarly structured words, phrases or clauses that appear in a sentence or paragraph.

**Subordinate Clause**: a group of words containing a subject and a verb that cannot stand alone as a sentence.

**Syntax**: the order of words in a sentence; sentence structure.

**Syntactical patterns:** the repetition of ordering of words in a sentence for effect.

***Rhetorical terms having to do with meaning of words/author's purpose:***

**Allusion:** an indirect reference to another text or body of knowledge (history, Bible, mythology, etc.).

**Anecdote**: a brief narrative (story) within a text to get audience's attention and/or support a claim.

**Appeal to authority:** referring to the words/actions of a person in authority as a means of supporting a claim.

**Apostrophe:** when nature is spoken to as if human.

**Connotation:** the implied meaning of a word; a word's overtones of meaning.

**Euphemism:** an indirect expression of unpleasant information.

**Imagery:** language that appeals to the senses.

**Metaphor/Extended metaphor:** a figurative comparison of two unlike objects.

**Objective:** without personal bias or prejudice.

**Simile/Analogy**: a figurative (not literal) comparison using "like" or "as."

**Subjective:** reflecting an individual's feelings, prejudice or bias.

**Tone:** the author’s attitude, as determined by an analysis of his/her language.