

AP English Language Academic Terms – Master List

Directions:

For each term, write the word and its definition on a flashcard and/or a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to review and study any terms you do not already know. You will be quizzed on all of these terms when we return to school in early August 2026, and these terms will continue to appear on quizzes throughout the school year. Good Luck.

I. Rhetorical Devices

- Allusion
- Analogy
- Anaphora
- Anadiplosis
- Anecdote
- Antimetabole
- Antithesis
- Aphorism
- Aporia
- Apostrophe
- Asyndeton
- Chiasmus
- Colloquialism
- Connotation
- Denotation
- Diction
- Didactic
- Epistrophe
- Euphemism
- Hyperbole
- Hypophora
- Imagery
- Irony
- Juxtaposition
- Litotes
- Metaphor
- Metanoia
- Metonymy

- Oxymoron
- Paradox
- Parallelism
- Parataxis
- Periodic Sentence
- Personification
- Polysyndeton
- Procatalepsis
- Rhetorical Question
- Satire
- Simile
- Symbolism
- Syntax
- Tone
- Understatement
- Verbal Irony
- Situational Irony
- Dramatic Irony
- Invective
- Enumeration

II. Argumentation & Logic

- Claim
- Thesis
- Counterargument
- Rebuttal
- Concession
- Evidence
- Commentary
- Reasoning
- Warrant
- Assumption
- Ethos
- Pathos
- Logos
- Credibility
- Bias
- Audience
- Purpose
- Context
- Exigence

- Kairos
- Line of Reasoning
- Qualification
- Refutation
- Fallacy
- Ad Hominem
- Non Sequitur
- Straw Man
- Red Herring
- False Dilemma
- Slippery Slope
- Hasty Generalization
- Circular Reasoning
- False Analogy
- Appeal to Authority
- Bandwagon
- Burden of Proof
- Call to Action
- Persuasion

III. Style & Structure

- Organization
- Structure
- Chronological Order
- Cause and Effect
- Compare and Contrast
- Problem and Solution
- Repetition
- Emphasis
- Unity
- Coherence
- Transition
- Motif
- Theme
- Point of View
- Speaker
- Narrator
- Voice
- Mood
- Pacing
- Shift

- Tone Shift
- Climax
- Resolution
- Introduction
- Conclusion
- Paragraph Development
- Loose Sentence
- Hypotaxis

IV. Language & Style Precision

- Ambiguity
- Jargon
- Pedantic
- Bombastic
- Plain Style
- Elevated Style
- Vernacular

V. Sound Devices

- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Consonance
- Cacophony
- Euphony
- Onomatopoeia

VI. Literary & Analysis Terms

- Characterization
- Direct Characterization
- Indirect Characterization
- Protagonist
- Antagonist
- Conflict
- Internal Conflict
- External Conflict
- Setting
- Plot
- Exposition
- Rising Action

- Falling Action
- Foil
- Flashback
- Foreshadowing
- Allegory
- Archetype
- Genre
- Style

VII. Advanced / Sophistication Terms

- Synecdoche
- Paronomasia
- Pleonasm
- Bathos
- Meiosis
- Enargia
- Enthymeme
- Syllogism
- Apophasis