

## English III – AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

### P. Cano Key Terms for the AP Exam

The following essential terms have been taken from an Official AP Prep guide. AP Language and Comp students need to know these.

NOTE: You must be familiar with these terms by the start of the school year and be able to identify them in context.

- **Accusatory** – expressing accusation – accusatory tone
- **Ad Hoc argument** – Ad Hoc is a debating tactic in which an explanation of why a particular thing *may be* is substituted for an argument as to why it *is*; since it is therefore not an argument, it is not technically a fallacy, but is usually listed as one because it is a substitution for a valid argument
- **ACRONYM** (From Greek *acron* + *onyma*; "tip or end of a name"): A word formed from the initial letters in a phrase – examples - IRS (*I*nternal *R*evenue *S*ervice)
- **Ad Hominem argument** (appealing to people's emotions and prejudices instead of their ability to think)
- **Allegory** - when the meaning is outside the text. - example Avatar - Pandora woods is like the Amazon Rainforest and the attempt to get the Navi' to cooperate carries overtones of the US involvement in Iraq and AF - Also Animal Farm - farm and animals as metaphors for totalitarian politics
- **Alliosis**: While presenting a reader with only two alternatives may result in the **logical fallacy** known as false contrast or either/or fallacy, creating a parallel sentence using two alternatives in parallel structure can be an effective device rhetorically and artistically. Alliosis is the rhetorical use of any parallel sentence that presents two choices to the reader, e.g., "You can eat well, or you can sleep well."
- **Alliteration**- the repetition of beginning consonant sounds in a series of words or phrases
- **Allusion**- makes a reference to, or a representation of, people, places, events, literary work, myths, or works of art, either directly or indirectly
- **ambiguity** (doubt about meaning- a situation in which something can be understood in more than one way)
- **ambivalent** – having mixed feelings about something or someone – being unable to choose between two courses of action
- **anacronism**: Placing an event, person, item, or verbal expression in the wrong historical period. In Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare writes the following lines: Brutus: Peace! Count the clock.  
Cassius: The clock has stricken three (Act II, scene i, lines 193-94). Of course, there were no household clocks during Roman times,
- **analytical**- using analysis or logical reasoning
- **analogy** - a comparison of two things that are similar in some way, often used to explain something or make it easier to understand
- **Anaphora** - In rhetoric it is the repetition of a word or set of words in successive sentences, clauses, or phrases. Example: *A Tale of Two Cities* starts out, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." In this passage the repetition of "it was" is an example of this rhetorical device. Another example is in *Night* by Elie Wiesel. Seven sentences in a row begin, "Never shall I forget."

- **Anadiplosis**- repetition of the last word or phrase one line or clause to begin the next – (doubling back)
- **Assonance** -The repetition of vowel sounds within neighboring words. An example of this poetic device is the phrase “From the molten-golden notes” in Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Bells.” Another example from “The Bells,” is this line: “hear mellow wedding-bells.”
- **anecdote**: A short narrative account of an amusing, unusual, revealing, or interesting event
- **antecedent** - something coming before - in grammar, a word or phrase that the pronoun refers to / Example - “I’ll give this to MARY if I see HER” - (Mary is the antecedent of “her”)
- **aphorism** ( a saying- cliché)
- **antistrophe** – the repetition of words in reversed order – “Martin Luther King was a civil rights leader. A civil rights leader, who wanted only peace for all.”
- **Anti-thesis** –when two opposite ideas are put together in a sentence to achieve a contrasting effect. Antithesis emphasizes the idea of contrast by parallel structures – for example : “That’s one small step for man- one giant step for mankind.”
- **apostrophe** - a rhetorical passage in which an absent or imaginary person or an abstract or inanimate entity is addressed directly
- **atmosphere** - an emotional tone or mood of a written work of art
- **audience** – Who the writer is addressing
- authoritative-
- **balanced sentence** - made up of two parts that are roughly equal in length, importance, and grammatical structure
- **begging the question** - Begging the question, or assuming the answer, is a logical fallacy that occurs when the conclusion of an argument is used as a premise of that same argument; i.e., the premises would not work if the conclusion wasn't already assumed to be true. Example: Abortion is unjust murder. Murder is illegal. Therefore abortion should be made illegal, since it is murder. ( sometimes called circular reasoning)
- **circular reasoning** – is not a formal logical fallacy but a pragmatic defect in an argument whereby the premises are just as much in need of proof or evidence as the conclusion, and as a consequence the argument fails to persuade.
- **clause** - has a subject and a predicate - two kinds = dependent ( subject and predicate but CANNOT stand alone as a complete thought (sentence) - Example: “Because she was not sure of his true feelings” independent ( subject and predicate but CAN stand alone as a complete though (sentence) Example - “Mary chose to end the relationship with Bob.” When the dependent (subordinate clause) comes before the independent ( Main clause), a comma must be placed between the two. However, if the independent (main) clause comes before the dependent (subordinate) clause, there is no need for a comma. Example: “Because she was not sure of his true feelings, Mary chose to end the relationship with Bob” (Dependent plus comma Independent = complex sentence ) or Mary chose to end the relationship with Bob because she was not sure of his true feelings. (Independent plus (no comma) Dependent = complex sentence)
- **compound sentence**- two complete sentences (independent clauses) joined together by a coordinate conjunction (fanboys) Example - “Mary had a little lamb, and she also had a cow”
- **colloquialism** (an informal word or phrase that is more common in conversation than in formal speech/writing) colloquial diction = informal words
- **conceit** ( an imaginative poetic image or writing that contains such an image - an extended simile or metaphor carried to extremes)

- **condescending** – showing or implying a superior attitude towards others – If you are being condescending, you are looking down on someone.
- **connotation** - the emotional meaning of a word ( example: the connotation of the word HOME to Mrs. Cano means relaxation/pajamas/ comfortable)
- **denotation** - the dictionary meaning of a word - the denotation of the word HOME is “a place of dwelling”
- **diction** - words used to convey a certain effect
- **Dialect** – Language that is characteristic of a particular region or group. For example, in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, by Mark Twain, one of the characters says to Tom, “It was a middling warm in school, warn’t it? In Texas, we say, “ya’all”.
- **Dialogue** – The spoken words between characters in a literary work. For example, the conversation between characters in a drama or narrative.
- **didactic** ( containing a political or moral message- meant to teach, preach, or instruct)
- **Epistrophe** - The opposite of anaphora – the *end* is repeated. 'If women are healthy and educated, their families will flourish. If women are free from violence, their families will flourish. If women have a chance to work ... their families will flourish.'
- **euphemism** - a word used in place of a term that might be considered harsh, unpleasant or offensive - Example “Boy, I didn’t know your Grandma is dead!” instead of saying “ Boy, I didn’t know you lost your Grandma” or “I didn’t know your Grandma is no longer with us”
- **extended metaphor** ( longer than is normal or typical)
- **Effect:** What does the author want the audience to do, feel, etc?
- **Fallacy** – the use of poor or invalid reasoning for the construction of an argument
- **figurative language** - similes, metaphors, imagery, etc
- **figure of speech** - A figure of speech is the use of a word or a phrase, which transcends its literal interpretation
- **generic conventions** ( usable or suitable in a variety of contexts - traditions for each genre - example all Westerns have six shooters, western hats, and spurs)
- **genre** - the category of written work - tragedy, comedy, novel, short story, poem,
- **homily** - a lecture or a sermon
- **hyperbole** - . a figure of speech that is an intentional exaggeration for emphasis or comic effect.
- **imagery** - painting pictures with words .
- **inference** - a conclusion - to infer means to use the process of reasoning (logic) in order to come to a conclusion
- **invective** ( abusive or violent language used to attack, blame, or denounce somebody)
- **irony** (including verbal irony, situational irony, dramatic irony)
- **logic** – the use and study of valid reasoning
- **jargon** – a special language belonging exclusively to a group, often a profession, engineers, lawyers, doctors, etc.
- **juxtaposition:** see other notes
- **logical fallacy** - an error of reasoning. When someone adopts a position, or tries to persuade someone else to adopt a position, based on a bad piece of reasoning, they commit a fallacy.
- **loose sentence**- (also called a cumulative sentence) is a type of sentence in which the main idea (independent clause) is elaborated by the successive addition of modifying clauses or phrases / Simply put, a loose sentence contains a main clause ( independent) followed by a subordinate clause or phrase. Examples: “ *He went into town to buy groceries, to visit his friends, and to go to the bookstore.*”

- **Metonymy** - narrative is a figure of speech used in rhetoric in which a thing or concept is not called by its own name, but by the name of something intimately associated with that thing or concept. ( Washington or Capital = White House or President) or Hollywood for cinema or reference to celebrities
- **Mood** - the atmosphere of a literary work - how it makes YOU feel
- **Onomatopoeia** - words that sound like the objects they name or the sounds those objects make.
- **Oxymoron** - an expression with contradictory words in which two words of contradictory meaning are used together for special effect "wise fool" or "legal murder"
- **Paradox** - a contradiction - example "This statement is false" - the statement cannot be false and true at the same
- **Parallelism** - (parallel structure ) "We charge him with having broken his coronation-oath - *and we are told that he kept his marriage-vow!* We accuse him of having given up his people to the merciless inflictions of the most hard-hearted of prelates - *and the defense is that he took his little son on his knee and kissed him.* We censure him for having violated the Petition of Right / "Veni, vidi, vici (I came, I saw, I conquered)." (Julius Caesar)
- **Parody** - to mock, to comment, to trivialize an original work by means of comedy, satire, or ironic imitation
- **Pedantic** - A state of mind which is about caring a lot about formalities, often more than necessary to impress others - One may be called pedantic when he/she points out correct use of words, etc.
- **periodic sentence** - Long and frequently involved sentence, marked by suspended syntax, in which the sense is not completed until the final word - withhold the main meaning of a sentence until the end, as in the following examples. These examples postpone the main idea by withholding the entire
- **point of view** (first person, third person, omniscient narrator, limited-third person)
- **predicate adjectives** - an adjective that comes after a linking verb and not before a noun - example "The scene is instant, whole, and wonderful."  
predicate nominative (grammar) - The predicate nominative is the noun following a linking verb that restates or stands for the subject. Typically, a predicate nominative has the same value or grammatical weight as the subject.

In the following examples, the predicate nominative is **bold** and the subject is underlined. " At the end of the tournament, Tiger Woods was the **leader.**" Or "For many of us on the team, the fans were an **embarrassment.**" Here the word "embarrassment" restates the word "fans" - they are both the same.

- **Prose** - language that is not poetry - a writing or speech in its normal continuous form without the rhythmic or visual line structure of poetry - the ordinary style of expression –
- **Purpose:** What is the purpose of the argument – to inform? To argue? Etc?
- **Repetition** - Repetition of a sound, syllable, word, phrase,
- **Rhetoric** - the study and practice of effective communication
- **rhetorical modes** (exposition, argumentation, description, narration)
- **rhetorical question** - A question is "rhetorical" if it is asked merely for effect with no answer expected

- **sarcasm** - remarks that mean the opposite of what they seem to say and are intended to mock, put down, or ridicule - verbal irony
  - **satire** - the use of wit to criticize behavior - especially verbal irony, sarcasm, and ridicule to criticize faults - mockery, a parody, a spoof
  - **simile** - a figure of speech that directly compares two things through some connective word, usually being "like", "as", "than",
  - **style** - a distinctive form such as in music, architecture or literature- the way something is written
  - **subject complement** A subject complement is the adjective, noun, or pronoun that follows a linking verb. The following verbs are *true* linking verbs: any form of the verb **be** [*am, is, are, was, were, has been, are being, might have been*, etc.], **become**, and **seem**. These true linking verbs are *always* linking verbs
- Examples of Subject Complement.*
- Brandon is a gifted **athlete**.
  - **Brandon** = subject; **is** = linking verb; **athlete** = noun as subject complement.
  - It was **he** who caught the winning touchdown Friday night.
  - **It** = subject; **was** = linking verb; **he** = pronoun as subject complement.
  - Brandon becomes **embarrassed** when people compliment his skill.
  - **Brandon** = subject; **becomes** = linking verb; **embarrassed** = adjective as subject complement.
- **subordinate clause** – a dependent clause (or a subordinate clause) is a clause that augments an independent clause with additional information, but which cannot stand alone ...
  - **sylogism** ( a formal deductive argument made up of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion. An example: “All birds have feathers, penguins are birds, therefore, penguins have feathers”.)
  - **symbolism** - to provide some possible cultural significances of various symbols, and suggest ways in which those symbols may have been used in ...
  - **synecdoche** - a figure of speech in which a term for a part of something refers to the whole of something or vice versa
  - **syntax**- organization of words in a sentence
  - **theme** - the central message of a story
  - **thesis** - the subject of an essay -
  - **tone** - the author’s attitude toward the subject he is writing about
  - **transition** - a word or phrase that connects one idea to another in writing Examples: “furthermore, in addition, however, on the other hand, etc.”
  - **understatement** - a way of expressing yourself, that is deliberately less forceful or dramatic than the subject would seem to justify or require - a statement that underrepresents - sarcasm
  - **wit** ( ingenious humor- the clever and often humorous association of words and ideas)

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Also know the following terms that appear on the essay section:

**THE APPEALS**: These are the modes of persuasion (other principles being *logos* and *pathos*) discussed by Aristotle in 'Rhetoric' as a component of argument. In arguments, writers use these modes of persuasion to convince their readers to see their point.

- **Ethos = Ethical Appeal** - In rhetoric, *ethos* - can involve "moral competence" only, but also includes authority – expertise and knowledge.
- **Logos = Logical Appeal** - Logos involves fact, statistics, percentages, etc. as evidence
- **Pathos = Emotional Appeal** – Pathos is emotional appeal – it pulls at the heartstrings

You must also be familiar with:

- concrete detail
- descriptive detail
- rhetorical devices
- language
- narrative devices
- narrative technique
- persuasive devices
- persuasive essay
- resources of language
- stylistic devices