

## AP Language Vocabulary – *Argumentation*

- 1) **Antithesis:** Parallel structure that juxtaposes contrasting ideas. *We shall support any friend, oppose any foe.*
- 2) **Aphorism:** A short, astute statement of general truth. *Less is more.*
- 3) **Appositive:** A word or phrase that renames a nearby noun or pronoun. "The hangman, a grey-haired convict in the white uniform of the prison, was waiting beside his machine"(Orwell).
- 4) **Backing:** Evidence used to support a warrant in a Toulmin argument.
- 5) **Cause and effect:** Analysis of events in which reasons are sought and effects are considered.
- 6) **Claim:** The assertion one makes in an argument that requires a reason for its existence.
- 7) **Classification and division:** The sorting out of elements into groups or classes, or the separation of something into its parts. *Amy Tan does this with her language in "Mother Tongue".*
- 8) **Common Ground:** Shared beliefs, values, or positions.
- 9) **Concession:** A reluctant acknowledgement or yielding to a position.
- 10) **Description:** Depiction through sensory evidence. Not just visual, it can include smell, taste, touch and hearing.
- 11) **Exemplification:** Providing specific instances in support of general ideas. *Ascher does this with anecdotes in "On Compassion".*
- 12) **Exigence:** In rhetoric, an issue, problem, or situation that causes or prompts someone to write or speak.
- 13) **Exposition:** Writing that explains. Rather than showing, as in narration, exposition tells.
- 14) **Parody:** A piece that imitates and exaggerates the prominent features of another; used for comic effect or ridicule.
- 15) **Polemic:** An argument against an idea, usually regarding philosophy, politics, or religion.
- 16) **Process analysis:** Explaining how to do something, how others do it, or how certain things occur.

**17) Premise (major, minor):** Two parts of a syllogism. The concluding sentence of a syllogism takes its predicate from the major premise and its subject from the minor premise. *Major premise: All mammals are warm-blooded. Minor premise: All horses are mammals. Conclusion: All horses are warm blooded.*

**18) Qualifier:** Words and phrases which place limits on claims, such as: usually, sometimes, and in many cases.

**19) Rebuttal:** Strictly interpreted, it refers to argumentation meant to overcome opposing evidence and reasoning by introducing other evidence and reasoning that will destroy its effect.

**20) Syllogism:** A form of deductive reasoning in which the conclusion is supported by a major and minor premise.

**21) Trope:** Artful diction; the use of language in a nonliteral way, also called a figure of speech.

**22) Warrant:** The persuasive connection between a claim and a reason in a Toulmin argument. It is often an unstated assumption.

**23) Zeugma:** A construction in which one word (usually a verb) modifies or governs – often in different, sometimes incongruent ways – two or more words in a sentence. *"She arrived in a taxi and a flaming rage."* (Lyons).