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Ap human geography terms and definition of place

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offer a GPA boost to students who take AP—be sure to check with your school for more information. One of the competencies you need to develop for AP Language and Composition is a thorough understanding of rhetorical strategies and techniques. This is because you will both be expected to identify these strategies and techniques in the writing of others and to use them in your own writing. But given the huge number of rhetorical terms there are, how do you know which ones you need to know and understand? Do you need to know what anaphora is? What about synecdoche? In this article I’ll provide two lists: one of essential key AP Language and Composition terms to know for the exam, and one list of useful bonus words that will serve you well on the exam. Then I’ll advise how to learn and use these terms for AP success! Essential AP Language and Composition Terms The following list of 37 terms, based on consulting both the AP English Language and Composition Course and Exam Description and free-response material from past years, provides an important overview of the major AP Lang rhetorical devices and techniques you need to know. With all of this AP Language and Composition vocabulary at your disposal, you’ll be a top-notch rhetorical analyst in no time! Each entry has a definition and example or further explanation. Don’t be intimidated by the size of this list—

many of these are terms you are probably already familiar with! Essential Rhetorical Analysis Terms Terms Definition Example/Explanation Analogy Explaining something complex by comparing it to something more simple. “An amateur playing in a professional game is like an ibex stepping into a lion’s den.” Argument The combination of reasons, evidence, etc that an author uses to convince an audience of their position. Top comprehensive a concept for a single example! In effective rhetoric, every phrase serves to further build the argument. Aristotelian appeals Three different methods of appealing to an audience to convince them—ethos, logos, and pathos. See ethos, logos and pathos. Attitude The writer’s personal views or feelings about the subject at hand. Difficult to convey in a short example, but something like “the deplorable state of this school” would convey that the author has a negative attitude towards the school. Audience Who the author is directing his or her message towards When you create a resume, your audience is potential employers. Compare and contrast Discussing the similarities and differences between two things to some persuasive or illustrative purpose. “Hybrid cars have a much smaller carbon footprint than traditional midsize vehicles.” Connotation The implied meaning of a word; words can broadly have positive, negative, or neutral connotations. conscientious = positive connotation fussy = negative connotation Context The extra-textual environment in which the text is being delivered. If I am delivering a congratulatory speech to awards recipients, the immediate context might be the awards presentation ceremony; the broader context might be the purpose or significance of the awards themselves. Counterargument The argument(s) against the author’s position. If I want to eliminate the dress code, a counterargument might be that this will place a burden on students of a lower socioeconomic status, who must now afford an entire school wardrobe or risk unwanted attention. Deductive reasoning A form of logical reasoning wherein a general principle is applied to a specific case. If all planets orbit a star, and Theta II is a planet, then it must orbit a star. Denotation The literal, dictionary-definition meaning of a word. The denotation of “chair” is “a place to sit.” Diction The style of language used; generally tailored to be appropriate to the audience and situation. You might say

“What’s up, loser?” to your little brother, but you would probably say “How are you doing today?” to your principal. Ethos Setting up a source as credible and trustworthy. “Given my PhD in the subject and years of experience in the field” is an appeal to ethos. Evidence The information presented meant to persuade the audience of the author’s position. If I were arguing that Anne is a good student, I might reference her straight-A report card and her 1500 SAT score as pieces of evidence. Figurative language The use of language in a non-literal way, i.e. metaphor, simile, etc. “The sky’s like a jewel box tonight!” Genre The specific type of work being presented. Broader categories include “novel” and “play,” while more specific genres would be things like “personal essay” or “haiku.” Imagery Any descriptive language used to evoke a vivid sense or image of something; includes figurative language. “The water was a pearl-studded sea of azure tipped with turquoise.” Implication When something is suggested without being concretely stated. “Watch your wallet around Paul,” implies that Paul is a thief without coming out and saying “Paul is a thief.” Inductive reasoning Making a generalization based on specific evidence at hand. All of the planets in this solar system orbit a star, so all planets probably orbit stars. Irony At the most basic sense, saying the opposite of what you mean; also used to describe situations in which the result of an action are dramatically different than intended. “I do so hope there are more papers to sign,” is something that might be said ironically. Juxtaposition Placing two very different things together for effect. “There they stood together, the beggars and the lords, the princesses and the washerwoman, all crowding into the square.” Logos Appealing to someone’s sense of concrete facts and logic. Citing peer-reviewed scientific studies is an appeal to logos. Occasion The reason or moment for writing or speaking. When giving a graduation speech, the occasion is graduation. Organization How the different parts of an argument are arranged in a piece of writing or speech. Think about the outlines you write in preparation for drafting an argumentative essay and you’ll have an idea of what organization is. Pathos An Aristotelian appeal. Involves appealing to someone’s emotions. Animal shelters ads with pictures of cute sad animals and dramatic music are using pathos. Purpose The author’s persuasive intention. If you are trying to convince your mother you should get a dog, your purpose in addressing an essay on the subject to her would be to convince her that you should get a dog. Repetition Re-using a word or phrase repeatedly for effect or emphasis. “We run, and we run, and we run, and we run, like rats on a wheel.” Rhetoric The use of spoken or written word (or a visual medium) to convey your ideas and convince an audience. Almost everything is an example of rhetoric! Rhetorical triangle The relationship between the author, the audience, the text/message, and the context. The author communicates to the reader via the text; and the reader and text are surrounded by

context. Speaker The persona adopted by the author to deliver his or her message; may or may not actually be the same person as the author. Similar to the difference between author and narrator in a work of fiction. Style The author’s own personal approach to rhetoric in the piece; similar to voice. We might say the Taylor Swift’s songwriting style is straightforward and emotive. Symbolism Using a symbol to refer to an idea or concept. “Fire” is commonly used a symbol for passion and/or anger. Syntax The way sentences are grammatically constructed. “She likes pie,” is syntactically simple. On the other hand, “As it so happened, when Barbara got out of class early she liked to have a piece of pie —key lime or pecan, always—at the corner diner, while she was there she watched the people passing by the window and imagined herself inside each of their lives, riding in their heads for moments and moments until the afternoon was whiled away and she’d become fifty people,” is syntactically complicated. Synthesis Combining sources or ideas in a coherent way in the purpose of a larger point. A typical research paper involves synthesizing sources to make a broader point about the topic. Themes Overarching ideas or driving premises of a work. Some themes you will probably hear in your high school graduation speech include leaving behind a legacy, moving into the great unknown, becoming an adult, and changing the world. Tone The use of stylistic devices to reveal an author’s attitude toward a subject. Only a narrow distinction from attitude. The phrase “The deplorable state of this school” reveals a negative attitude, but the word choice of “deplorable” is part of the author’s tone. Voice An author’s unique sound. Similar to style. Think of the way that you can recognize a pop singer on the radio without hearing who it is first. Want to build the best possible college application? We can help. PrepScholar Admissions is the world’s best admissions consulting service. We combine world-class admissions counselors with our data-driven, proprietary admissions strategies.

We’ve overseen thousands of students get into their top choice schools, from state colleges to the Ivy League. We know what kinds of students colleges want to admit. We want to get you admitted to your dream school. Learn more about PrepScholar Admissions to maximize your chance of getting in. Let your voice be heard! Bonus AP Language and Composition Terms Here are 18 bonus AP Language vocabulary terms that, while not absolutely essential to your success on the exam, will be very helpful. They identify some common but obscurely named rhetorical techniques and some additional rhetorical and argumentative strategies. These terms also each have a definition and an example or explanation. Bonus Rhetorical Terms Terms Definition Example/Explanation Alliteration Using words with the same first letter repeatedly close together in a phrase or sentence. “She purchased the pretty purple parka.” Allusion Making a brief reference to the cultural canon—e.g. the Bible, Shakespeare, classical mythology, etc. “Like Eve in the Garden of Eden, George was not good at resisting temptation.” Anecdote Offering a brief narrative episode. This device can serve many functions in a text—for example, introducing an issue, serving as evidence, to illustrate a point, and so on. “When I went to buy my morning coffee, I ran into an old friend. He told me he had won the lottery and he was about to buy a yacht. Two months later I heard he had declared bankruptcy.” Concession Agreeing with the opposing viewpoint on a certain smaller point (but not in the larger argument). “While I admit that hybrid cars have higher carbon production costs than conventional automobiles, this is dramatically offset by the much-smaller lifetime carbon footprint of the vehicles.” Didactic A text with an instructive purpose, often moral. Aesop’s fables are an example of a didactic work. Euphemism Referring to something with a veiled phrase instead of saying it directly “She let Bob go,” is a euphemism for “she fired Bob.” Exemplification Providing examples in service of a point. “The Town Beautification Funds are being sorely misused; the streets are full of litter, the parks are full of broken equipment, and City Hall’s facade is drab and crumbling.” Hyperbole Overstating a situation for humorous or dramatic effect. “My backpack weighs tons!” Idiom A commonly used phrase that signifies something very different than its literal meaning. “This costs an arm and a leg!” is an idiom which means “This is very expensive.” Onomatopoeia Using “sound-effect” words (e.g. “clap,” “buzz”). “We heard an ominous hiss from the kitchen.” Paradox A phrase or assertion that appears to contradict itself (but the contradiction itself may have its own meaning). Paradoxical phrases include “dark angel,” “fresh rot,” “blissful hell,” etc. Parallelism Repeated structural elements in a sentence. “We went to sea; we went to war; we went to bed.” Parody Using the form of something to mimic and make fun of it. Weird Al is the master of the musical parody genre. Personification Giving human characteristics to a nonhuman object or idea. “The sun was shining happily today.” Sarcasm Mockingly stating the opposite of what you mean. Easier to convey in the spoken word than via writing. “Did you come up with that all by yourself?” might be delivered sarcastically after someone delivers a poorly-thought out idea. Satire A genre of humorous and mocking criticism to expose the ignorance and/or ills of society. Stephen Colbert is a popular modern satirist. Synecdoche Referring to one part of something as a way to refer to the whole. “Ask for her hand” is a synecdoche for marriage; the “hand” stands in for the whole woman. Understatement Deliberately minimizing something, usually for humorous effect. “My mom’s a little bit irritated I crashed the car—I’m grounded for the next twenty-four months.” The Angry Storm: a story of personification. How to Learn and Use AP Language Terms You might be tempted to bust out some flashcards, do some aggressive memorization, and call yourself finished. However, that’s really only the first step of the three-step process of actually learning AP Lang terms. Step 1: Learn Rhetorical Terms As you initially try to familiarize yourself with these terms and what they mean, it’s fine to make flashcards. You could use the term on one side and the definition on the other, or the definition and the example from the chart on one side and the term on the other—whatever’s easier for you. You can make physical flashcards if you like to learn things with a tactile element involved, but for the sake of convenience, you might consider making online flashcards at a site like Quizlet, where a free account lets you make and save flash cards and then quiz yourself with a variety of games and strategies. When you know the terms and their definitions inside and out, you’re ready to move on to the next step. Step 2: Identify Rhetorical Strategies and Devices Next, you need to work on identifying rhetorical strategies and devices in actual written works. Make an effort when you read to seek out examples of the different rhetorical techniques at work. Think about the larger context of the piece: what’s the author’s purpose in writing this piece? Is the speaker the same as the author? What genre is it? What devices are being used repeatedly? You might try jotting down your thoughts about how pieces you read are using rhetorical devices. When you feel you can consistently identify these strategies at work in the writing of others, it’s time to try your hand at using them yourself. Step 3: Deploy Rhetorical Strategies and Devices Once you feel you have a handle on identifying a given device/concept in other pieces, it’s time to think about using it in your own writing. Consider your own purpose and argument when you write. Think about audience. Deploy hyperbole and irony. See what works and what doesn’t. Trying to apply the terms will help you learn the concepts much better than simple memorization. Looking for help studying for your AP exam? Our one-on-one online AP tutoring services can help you prepare for your AP exams. Get matched with a top tutor who got a high score on the exam you’re studying for! Deploy rhetorical parachutes! Final Thoughts: AP Language and Composition Terms There are so many rhetorical terms that it can be hard to determine which ones you need to know for AP Language and Composition! This list gives you an overview of all the essential AP English Language and Composition vocabulary. When you’re trying to learn these concepts, it’s better to try to apply them—by seeing how other authors use them and using them in your own writing—than to just memorize the terms and their definitions. The important thing is to understand the concepts, not just know the terms! What’s Next? Need to familiarize yourself with the format of the AP Lang test? We go over exactly what’s included on the AP Language test and how to tackle the multiple choice section here. Plus, check out our complete list of released practice AP Language tests. If you’re also taking AP Literature, see our ultimate guide to the AP English Literature test and our AP Literature Reading List. Studying poetry in class? Whether you’re reading “Do not go gentle into that good night” by Dylan Thomas or a Shakespearean sonnet, you’re going to want to make sure you know important poetic devices and terms like assonance and iambic pentameter, just to name a few. We can help if you’re not sure how to study for AP exams. Looking for other practice AP tests? See our complete lists for AP Human Geography, AP Literature, AP US History, AP Chemistry, AP Biology, AP Psychology, and AP World History. Or see our guide to finding the best AP practice tests for any exam. One of the single most important parts of your college application is what classes you choose to take in high school (in conjunction with how well you do in those classes). Our team of PrepScholar admissions experts have compiled their knowledge into this single guide to planning out your high school course schedule. We’ll advise you on how to balance your schedule between regular and honors/AP/IB courses, how to choose your extracurriculars, and what classes you can’t afford not to take.