3. Rhetoric Vocabulary vs. Power Vocabulary

What?

Vocabulary?

Yep. More than five hundred words. Boot camp. Starting right now, in August.

Look, as an Old Guy Who's Done A Ton of Reading, this list of Power Vocabulary reflects the terms I run into most frequently, words that are not used in everyday informal conversation.[1] Many of them I run into constantly, even on the Internet, where most content is written at a third grade reading level.

In astrophysics you need to learn discipline-specific words like astrometric, nucleosynthesis, and trigonometric parallax. In history you're learning discipline-specific words like plebiscite, containment, and nullification. In English we have discipline-specific words too, like concrete language, wit, and hyperbole.

That discipline-specific bucket of words I'm calling **rhetoric vocabulary**. These words are given in this chapter as **List R**, because "R" stands for "rhetoric." Clever, huh? I list them first because I want you to learn them first. Because we're going to need them soon.

And, I have another, bigger bucket of words that are not exclusively Englishey. You will see them everywhere, in multiple disciplines online and in print. The entire bucket of words appears in **Appendix Z: Power Vocabulary**, more than 500 words, A to Z, in all their splendiferous glory.

Don't panic! You don't have to learn them all right now. Calm your palpitating heart. I've broken the power vocabulary down into 23 fun lists. Not fun like Magic Mountain. Sorta fun. Okay it's not fun, it's work. But it's not busy work. It's good work. Vocabulary, along with the rules of English grammar, comprise your level of **control** as a writer.

Athletes spend time in the weight room strength training. As a writer you need time in the "control room" toning your weak, flabby control muscles. What better way to begin than to step on the vocabulary treadmill?

---

[1] I chose this list of vocabulary words using a number of sources, including Dr. Averil Coxhead's "Academic Word List" (Victoria University of Wellington's School of Linguistics and Applied Language studies online), and Princeton Review, *WordSmart* (5th ed., The Princeton Review, 2012).

How to learn and retain vocabulary

I do not give a list of ten words on Monday and a quiz on Friday, followed by a new ten words the next Monday. Why not? Because you'll only know 10 words at a time, forgetting the old ones as you go. Not as dumb as I look, huh?

I believe that as you go, you should remain responsible for all of the assigned words. Don't worry about *how* I plan to do that. I'll tell you that in person. *((rubs hands together evilly))*

But how will you retain *so many words???*

Not with flashcards displaying the word on one side and its simple definition on the other.

Method #1: mnemonic device

This doesn't work for me, because I'm not an audial learner. But it might work for you! The idea is to somehow generate a rhyming scheme for the word that will remind you of the word's meaning.

- **prodigious** (adj.) means extraordinary, enormous, to a burdensome or abnormal degree, but the connotation is more neutral than negative… the word's rhyming scheme could be "pro digits," or "in favor of a great number of digits," as in a huge number with a prodigious number of zeroes… or a weird creature with a prodigious number of fingers.[2]

In your notes, or on a flashcard, detail your rhyming scheme for the word. Include the definition, of course.

Search **wordpandit.com** plus the word you seek for more ideas. They have a section called "mnemonic tips." All my words may not be there, but you'll certainly get the idea.

---

[2] "Prodigious," wordpandit.com/prodigious (May 26, 2017).

Method #2: pictogram

This works best for visual learners, especially visual artists. No, I am not much of a visual artist. But it works better for me than the mnemonic device strategy.

A pictogram is a picture *of the word itself* made to look like what the word means.

- **agrarian** (adj., n.) describes something that is rural... the connotation is neutral

Stop laughing at my picture!

In your notes, or on a flashcard, create your own pictogram. Include the definition if you need to do that.

I remain unconvinced that insipid little pictures of stick figures will be of any help to you, but what about magazine clippings or royalty-free computer images, or some other method of visual artistry in your notes or on your flashcards? I want your art to be memorable and meaningful because otherwise it's just busywork.

Method #3: strange little story

As a verbal learner, this method works extremely well for me. (Who would have guessed that an English teacher is a verbal learner?)

The idea is to write a weird little story about someone or something that encapsulates the meaning of the word *without using the word itself.*

It helps if you write about someone you know, but you should change that person's name in your strange little story in case your notes or your flaschards fall into the wrong hands.

- **preclude** (v.) means to prevent something from ever happening... the connotation is neutral

> Wonder Woman[3] lassoed Dedrick with her golden magic rope, preventing him not only from running away, but from telling any more lies.

Dedrick (not his real name) was one of my students. He was no liar, but he made me laugh and we enjoyed this sort of banter.

Method #4: category cards

Some of you are stubborn mules and insist on using traditional flashcards: word on one side, and the traditional definition on the other. Absent any context, you *will not enjoy good retention* using this strategy.

So how can you make it work?

By making category cards as well.

You may use my 23 categories if you want, but you should create around 40 of your own categories whether you use mine or not. Things you're familiar with. They can be silly, like "turtles," or "Elvis," or "Wyoming," or "the president." Make them fun and interesting.

Then, when you study, draw out 3-5 category cards on the table in front of you. Then, one at a time, draw out vocabulary cards and decide: In which category does the vocabulary card best fit? If the word fits none of them at all, you may set it aside. The act of deciding where the word goes helps you brain create connections it can't make if you're just drilling yourself one word at a time using only the vocabulary flashcards.

---

[3] Wonder Woman is a trademark of DC COMICS.

If each time you're drawing out different category cards, that adds an extra dimension of thinking about the vocabulary words.

Always do these two things no matter which method you choose.

1. Pronunciation

First of all, learn how the word is pronounced. If I don't stand in front of the class and say it out loud and encourage you to say it out loud with me, or if you were absent that day, or if you forgot, then go to the Internet. There is a short YouTube™ video for each word in which a disembodied voice pronounces the word for you.

If you can remember how it's pronounced, then of course you needn't write it on the card or in your notes. Otherwise do.

It's important to hear the word in your head when you see it. You don't want people to laugh at you when you say "clandestine" and the way you said it rhymes with "Palestine."

They will laugh. I know my mean friends and I did!

2. Parts of Speech

In your notes or on your flashcards, don't forget to include the different parts of speech. Don't just write "preclude," write

```
       v = preclude
       n = preclusion
     adj = precluded (past part.)
      adv. = none
```

You needn't always include the -ing form of the word (in this case, `precluding`), since almost any English verb comes to you with those forms included, free of charge. But if you're confused about the part of speech for the word "precluding" (no, it's not necessarily functioning as a verb), then you will need **Chapter 6: Control**.

What to do first, and how much to do at a time.

There are 24 lists, 1-23 plus the "R" list of Englishey words. This means if you begin in August learning three lists per month, while continuing to study and retain previous lists, you could still take December off and you'd would be done at the end of April.

Note that the lists are not equivalent in terms of length, and that some words occupy multiple lists.

All of my lists are available at **vocabulary.com**—get some practice there too!

Disagreements

You will probably disagree on occasion about which words appear in which lists. That's fine! You wouldn't be able to disagree with me if you weren't learning them. Who knows, maybe I placed an impostor here and there. Maybe I did it subconsciously.

All kidding aside, the English language, just like every other language, evolves and changes, and you will have your own individual understanding of it. Some educators, wordsmiths, and other grumpies with too much time on their hands will try to enforce all The Rules in a tragic, futile effort to keep the language from changing. Yes, we need standards. We've gotta spell correctly as much as possible. We need periods at the ends of sentences. Everyone's bibliography needs to look the same in a particular discipline. But we also need to recognize that the English language is like an organism. Change is inevitable. Pick up some Shakespeare if you want to see how much it's changed in the last four centuries alone.

List R: Rhetoric vocabulary

These 99 terms do **not** appear in **Appendix Z: Power Vocabulary** because they're pretty Englishey and most of them aren't seen outside the context of a Language Arts or writing class. Whether using flashcards or notes, you should keep these separate from the power vocabulary.

1. abstract language
2. active language
3. allegory
4. alliteration
5. allusion
6. ambiguity
7. analogy
8. antecedent
9. antithesis
10. apostrophe
11. assertion
12. assonance
13. audience
14. bias
15. cacophony
16. caricature
17. chiasmus
18. claim
19. cliché
20. colloquial language
21. concrete language
22. connotative language
23. consonance
24. control of language
25. deductive reasoning
26. denotative language
27. diction
28. didactic language
29. double entendre
30. ellipsis
31. ethical appeal
32. euphemism
33. euphony
34. evidence
35. fallacy
36. farce
37. figurative language
38. foreshadowing
39. formal language
40. hyperbole
41. imagery
42. implication
43. implied thesis
44. inductive reasoning
45. inference
46. informal language
47. invective
48. inversion
49. irony (3 types)
50. jargon
51. literal language
52. logical appeal
53. metaphor
54. metonymy
55. mood
56. nonstandard language
57. objectivity
58. occasion
59. onomatopoeia
60. oxymoron
61. paradox
62. parallel structure
63. parody
64. passive language
65. emotional appeal / pathos
66. pedantic language
67. pedestrian language
68. periphrasis
69. personification
70. point of view
71. premise
72. pun
73. purpose
74. qualification
75. reliability
76. repetition
77. rhetoric
78. sarcasm
79. satire
80. significance
81. simile
82. slang
83. speaker
84. standard language
85. style
86. subject
87. subjectivity
88. support
89. symbol
90. synesthesia
91. syntax
92. theme
93. thesis
94. tone
95. transition
96. types of text (4)
97. understatement
98. validity
99. vulgarity
100. wit

How to study List R

Your goal is to learn all of these terms well enough that you can be held responsible for them for the entire school year. Since these words differ from the **power vocabulary**, your approach should differ as well. In your notes or flashcards, keep these words separated from the others.

1. Create flashcards, or take notes. You might want to acquire the larger-sized index cards, because I want you to write much more than just a simple definition. On one side of the card (or in the right-hand column of the page, which should occupy ¼ to ⅓ of the entire page), write the **term**.
2. On the other side of the card (or in the left-hand column of the page, which should occupy ⅔ to ¾ of the entire page), use the chart starting on the next page to write the **denotation** AND the different parts of speech AND my example. THEN find or create your own example to use. A visit to the Church of the Holy Google makes this task easy. I especially like **literarydevices.net**. This way, for each term, you'll have two examples to study.
3. Once you've finished the card (or notes), use the chart on the next page to categorize them using colors or symbols. No, silly rabbit, you needn't color the entire card. A large dot will do. While you're studying, the color coding will help your brain make connections. Note that some terms belong to more than one category.

Here we go!

How to study List R *(continued)*

Category	Terms in the category
style	(6) control of language, diction, rhetoric, style, syntax, tone
Document Protocol	(8) audience, implied thesis, occasion, purpose, significance, speaker, subject, thesis
literature	(15) allegory, allusion, ambiguity, apostrophe [*not the punctuation*], figurative language, foreshadowing, imagery, metaphor, mood, personification, point of view, simile, symbol, text-narrative, theme
syntax	(10) active language, antecedent, ellipsis, parallel structure, passive language, repetition, syntax, theme, thesis, transition
devices & types of diction	(54) abstract language, active language, allegory, alliteration, allusion, ambiguity, analogy, antithesis, apostrophe [*not the punctuation*], assonance, cacophony, caricature, chiasmus, cliché, colloquial language, concrete language, connotative language, consonance, denotative language, diction, didactic language, double entendre, euphemism, euphony, farce, figurative language, hyperbole, imagery, implication, invective, inversion, irony [*three types*], jargon, literal language, metaphor, metonymy, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, paradox, parody, passive language, periphrasis, personification, pun, repetition, sarcasm, satire, simile, slang, synesthesia, understatement, vulgarity, wit
levels of diction	(9) colloquial language, formal language, informal language, nonstandard language, pedantic language, pedestrian language, slang, standard language, vulgarity
logic	(22) assertion, bias, claim, deductive reasoning, emotional appeal, ethical appeal, evidence, fallacy, inductive reasoning, inference, logical appeal, premise, qualification, reliability, rhetoric, subjectivity, support, text [*four types*], validity

Color suggestions: use yellow for style, red for Text Protocol, green for literature, grey for syntax, light blue for devices of diction, dark blue for levels of diction, purple for types of diction, and brown for logic. Just a suggestion. Some students like to be told exactly what to do.

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 1

- The bold version of the word is the most commonly used form, IMHO. "Denotation" is the grown-up word for "definition."
- -ing endings are not listed unless they're the only form available for the given part of speech; if the word can take an "-ing" ending, the "-ing" form can function as a noun (**gerund**), an adjective (**present participle**), and as a verb, if accompanied by by a helping verb.
- any term in parentheses is related to the main term, but its meaning differs in significant ways
- GK = Greek

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	abstraction, abstract language	**abstract**	abstractly	language referring to concepts and ideas that must be contemplated rather than perceived by the five senses	"The cleanliness of windows" instead of "the clean windows"; the latter is **concrete**
	active language	**active**	actively	the noun performing the action is the subject of the sentence	"The students made progress." instead of "Progress was made by the students." Notice the subject of the sentence changed. See **Appendix C: Active Voice Versus Passive Voice**
	allegory	allegorical	allegorically	when the elements of a story symbolize an abstraction, a historical event, etc. in addition to the literal meaning, to propose a moral truth / generalization about human existence	George Orwell's *Animal Farm* symbolizes the Russian revolution
	alliteration	alliterative	alliteratively	the repetition of sounds, usually initial consonant sounds in neighboring words, to unify ideas, supply a musical sound, or echo the sense of the passage	"The parents named their children Kyle, Kelly, Korey, and Kate."
allude	**allusion**	allusive	allusively	a reference, by means of an evocative utterance, to something implied but not stated	"Between a rock and a hard place" a reference to Scylla and Charybdis in Homer's *The Odyssey*
	ambiguity	**ambiguous**	ambiguously	a passage, sentence, or word subject to multiple interpretations due to uncertainty	Ray Bradbury's short story "The Veldt" has an ambiguous ending… Also the name of the web site www.opticsexpress.org might be interpreted different ways

continued on the next page

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 2

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	analogy	analogous	analogously	comparison / use of similarity, to explain something unfamiliar, or to make the writing more intellectually engaging	"Learning to teach is like learning to operate a complex piece of machinery—it takes time, guidance, and practice."
	antecedent			the noun that a pronoun refers back to	"The dog licked its bowl." ...antecedent of "its" is "dog"
	antithesis	antithetical	antithetically	the opposition or contrast of ideas; the direct opposite… to make the idea more striking	"Soap cannot tolerate dirt." – Henri Michaux, *Face aux verrous*… see **paradox, oxymoron**
	apostrophe	apostrophic		when a speaker talks to an object, or someone who is not there	"Come, vial." – Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* ...this use of "apostrophe" is different from the punctuation mark
assert	assertion	(assertive)	(assertively)	an opinion statement, usually more general than a fact, that requires logic (reasoning) and evidence in order to be supported	see **evidence** ...also note the related term "assertive"
	assonance	assonant		repetition of similar vowel sounds in closely associated words	"No pain, no gain."
	audience			the readers to whom the writer directs his message	**Text Protocol**… see **purpose**
	bias	biased		a writer's worldview based on his (her) upbringing, religion, race, gender, nationality, politics, etc.	There is no such thing as unbiased writing or speaking. When people say "unbiased" they usually mean "objective."
	cacophony	cacophonous	cacophon-ously	a harsh discordance of sounds; dissonance	In *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien, cacophonous names are given to the orcs to reflect their brutish, violent nature.
caricature	caricature	caricatured		any imitation or copy or description so distorted or inferior as to be ludicrous… usually for comic effect	Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was a famous 19th century American editorial cartoonist credited with creating the Democratic Donkey, the Republican Elephant and Santa Claus.

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 3

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	chiasmus	chiasmic	chiasmically	a type of parallel structure in which a structure is repeated in reverse… it can be conceptual OR grammatical	A–B–B–A; example: "A lawyer starts life giving $500 worth of law for $5 and ends giving $5 worth for $500." NOTE: **antimetabole** is the reversal of the identical words, while **chiasmus** reverses structure OR concepts using different words… JFK's famous "ask not" quotation is antimetabole
claim	claim, (claimant)	claimed		in argumentation, a conclusion whose merits the writer seeks to establish, or the conclusion reached after testing the evidence	this is a type of assertion… see **premise**
	cliché	clichéd		language used so often it has lost its freshness and clarity (figurative language without the freshness)	"loomed on the horizon," "stands out like a sore thumb," "bull in a china shop"
	colloquialism, colloquial language	colloquial	colloquially	language (dialect) filled with slang, figures of speech, and idioms particular to a place or culture, to give the text a conversational, familiar tone	"roof" in some parts of America is pronounced like "hoof" and in other parts is pronounced like "goof"
	concrete language	concrete	concretely	literal, plain language describing only what our senses can perceive	see **abstract**
connotate	connotation connotative language	connotative	connotatively	the non-literal, associative meaning of words; the implied, suggested meaning involving ideas, emotions, or attitudes… writers use this kind of language for persuasion	"cat" (neutral) vs. "kitten" (positive)
	consonance, (consonant)	consonant	consonantly	repetition of similar consonant sounds in closely associated words	"Each slow dusk is a drawing down of blinds."
(control)	control	controlled		an evaluation of a writer's mastery of the language; includes (1) voice, (2) vocabulary, (3) sentence variety, and (4) mechanical aptitude	control of language means more than good grammar… see **style**

continued on the next page

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 4

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
deduce	**deductive reasoning**, deduction	deductive	deductively	logic that proceeds from the general to the specific: a conclusion based on premises	see **logos, premise, claim, inductive reasoning**
denotate	**denotation**, denotative language	denotative	denotatively	the strict, literal, dictionary definitions of words, devoid of any emotion, attitude, or color... writers make use of words devoid of emotion for impartiality	"A knife is an instrument used for cutting."
(dictate)	**diction**			the writer's word choices, especially with regard to correctness, clarity, or effectiveness; combined with syntax and figures of language = writer's style	You will never be asked if there is diction, or how much; only what kind, and what effect it has on the reader... see **style**
	didactic language	**didactic**	didactically	a text that teaches someone	John Ruskin essays
	double entendre			a pun considered risqúe or even vulgar	"second base" in dating... see **pun**
	ellipsis	**elliptical**	elliptically	the omission of words which are easily understood	"She went to... school." ...ADJ form can refer to the ellipsis or it can be a negative word meaning ambiguous, cryptic, or excessive lack of detail in someone's writing
	ethos, ethical appeal	**ethical**	ethically	one of Aristotle's three strategies for argumentation, involving the speaker's credibility as a way of convincing an audience	the speaker may refer to his or her own credentials as an expert, or may appeal to someone trusted (common in television advertising)
	euphemism	euphemistic	euphemistic-ally	GK "good speech": a more agreeable / less offensive substitute for an unpleasant word / concept	"earthly remains" instead of "corpse"
	euphony	**euphonious**	euphoniously	pleasant in sound; agreeable to the ear	In *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, euphonious names are given to the elves to reflect their musical, peaceful nature.
	evidence	evident	evidently	facts / examples used in support of a claim or assertion	academic writing should favor facts from science, history, and literature over personal details and pop culture

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 5

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	fallacy	fallacious	fallaciously	an error in logic that may have been used intentionally in order to appeal to an audience's emotion	see **Appendix H: Logical Fallacies**
	farce	farcical	farcically	a light, humorous play in which the plot depends upon a skillfully exploited situation rather than upon the development of character	the television show "Frasier"
	figure of language, figure of speech, figurative language	figurative	figuratively	language that is not intended to carry literal meaning and is usually meant to be imaginative and vivid	metaphor, simile, personification
foreshadow	foreshadow-ing	foreshadowed		a device (person, situation, object, event) used to hint at the ending of a text, story, play, etc.	
	formal language, (formality)	formal	formally	standard language used for politeness or professionalism	"To Whom it May Concern" at the beginning of a letter
	hyperbole	hyperbolic	hyperbolically	GK "overshoot"… ridiculous exaggeration	"I'm so hungry I could eat a horse." - Mr. Stanford
(imagine)	imagery			sensory details of figurative language used to describe, arouse emotion, or represent abstractions… 5 senses: auditory, visual, tactile, olfactory, gustatory	"rose" is visual and olfactory, and can also represent the color in a woman's cheeks, or some degree of perfection… imagery can be used literally or figuratively
imply	implication	implied		an idea suggested in such a way that it's to be inferred or understood naturally	a writer's choice to make a statement with meaning under the surface rather than stated directly **implied thesis**: when a thesis is not directly stated by the writer
induce	inductive reasoning, induction	inductive	inductively	logic that proceeds from the specific to the general: a broad generalization based on data	the scientific method… see **deduce**

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 6

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
infer	inference	inferential	inferentially	a reasonable conclusion drawn from the information presented (answer not directly stated)	a reader's ability to draw a conclusion when none is stated
	informal language	informal	informally	standard language that is correct grammatically, but conversational in tone	"Dear Mom" at the beginning of a letter
	invective			emotionally violent / abusive verbal attack	"This sanguine coward, this bedpresser, this horseback breaker, this huge hill of flesh" (Henry IV, Part I)
invert	inversion	inverted		a reversal of the usual, expected order of words	"eggs and bacon"
	irony	ironic	ironically	the contrast between what is expected, and what happens, used to create poignancy or humor	often confused with coincidence: most of Alanis Morrissette's song "Ironic" is in fact about coincidence, not irony **dramatic irony** = facts / events are unknown to a character, but known to the audience, reader, or other characters **situational irony** = the events are the opposite of what was expected... an element of futility should also be present... what the characters / reader think ought to happen is the opposite of what happens **verbal irony** = the words stated are literally (and obviously) the opposite of what is meant... includes sarcasm
	jargon			words specific to a field of study or expertise	terrabyte (computer industry), professional learning community (education), powder (downhill skiing)
	literal language	literal	literally	language devoid of exaggeration or figures of speech	court documents, for example, report exactly what was said and do not describe anything figuratively

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 7

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	logos, logical appeal, **logic**	logical	logically	one of Aristotle's three strategies for argumentation, where the speaker uses reasoning and evidence	academic writing relies most on logos but argumentative writing in settings not purely academic may employ logos and ethos as well
	metaphor	metaphorical	metaphorically	an implied comparison of seemingly unlike things or the substitution of one for another, suggesting some similarity (without the use of "like" or "as")	The piggish teacher ate a box of donuts. **extended metaphor** = developed at great length or recurring throughout the work… similar to Homeric similes in *The Odyssey*
	metonymy	metonymous	metonymously	GK "changed label"… the name of one object is substituted for another closely associated with it ("White House")	"the White House declared" figuratively means "the president's press secretary declared"… "The pen is mightier than the sword"… "The bench" also means "the court" …a similar concept is called **synechdoche**
	mood	(moody)	(moodily)	prevailing atmosphere or emotional aura of a text (setting, tone, and events all contribute)	"mood" is about the feelings experienced by the reader, whereas "tone" is about the writer's attitude
	nonstandard language	**nonstandard**		all types of grammatically incorrect language and word usage, usually intended for the less educated reader	includes slang and colloquialisms and e-mail spelling
(objectify)	objectivity, objective language	**objective**	objectively	impersonal, unemotional, factual language	court documents, for example, report only what was said, and do not editorialize, comment, or omit… "bias" is always present, even when a writer attempts to be objective
	occasion	(occasional)	(occasionally)	the event, time, and place for a piece of writing	**Text Protocol**… see **purpose**
	onomato-poeia	onomatopoeic	onomato-poeically	the sound or rhythm of a word imitates its sense / meaning	"The seashore roared from the seashells' fold." – H. W. Longfellow

continued on the next page

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 8

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	oxymoron	oxymoronic	oxymoron-ically	GK "pointedly foolish"… two words used together, but seem to contradict one another in meaning or spirit… used for wit, compression, surprise, and the power of mystery and depth	"Terrible beauty" – Yeats… see **paradox, antithesis**
	paradox	paradoxical	paradoxically	a statement of strange truth expressed through a self-contradictory assertion	"Cowards die many times before their deaths." – Shakespeare… see **antithesis, oxymoron**
	parallelism, parallel structure	parallel		organizing force to provide clarity and rhythm	see **Control Helper**
parody	parody	parodied		imitation (style, content) aimed to ridicule: well written, offers enlightenment about the original… allusion of some type necessary	
	passive language	passive	passively	the subject of the sentence is not performing any action to remain vague or conceal information	"Progress was made" instead of "The students made progress." See Appendix C: **Active Voice Versus Passive Voice**
	pathos, emotional appeal	emotional, (pathetic)	emotionally, (pathetically)	one of Aristotle's three strategies for argumentation, where the speaker tries to convince by appealing to the audience's emotions	see **Appendix H: Logical Fallacies**
	pedantic language, pedant	pedantic	pedantically	words / phrases / tone = overly or unnecessarily bookish, scholarly, detail-oriented, "show-offy"… using big words for the sake of using big words	
	pedestrian language, (pedestrian)	pedestrian		words / phrases / tone = insufficiently academic, revealing academic inferiority or inexperience	the average-guy-on-the-street language… layman's terms

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 9

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	periphrasis			GK "talking around" ...a type of circumlocution in which the writer uses more words than necessary in order to sound more poetic and/or more indirect	"I am going to" instead of "I will" ...compare to **paraphrasis**, the restating of something in order to make it clearer
	personifi-cation	personified		human attributes or emotions ascribed to concepts, animals, or inanimate objects	"The door groaned."
	point of view	first person		**first person point of view**: a character in the story is the narrator... a retrospective is a first-person narrative in which the narrator is older, and remembering incidents in the past	Rudolfo Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima*
		second person		**second person point of view**: rare: the narrator tells the story of what "you" did... very rare	Jamaica Kincaid's *"A Small Place"*
		third person limited		**third person limited point of view**: the narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of only one character, presenting only the actions of other characters	J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series
		third person omiscient		**third person omniscient point of view**: the narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of any (and perhaps all) character(s)... godlike "eye in the sky"	William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*
	premise			an assertion assumed to be true used in deductive reasoning in order to prove a conclusion	see also "deductive reasoning" ...in the syllogism "All men are mortal / Socrates is a man / Therefore Socrates is mortal" the first two statements are premises; the third is a conclusion... see **claim**

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 10

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	pun			"fine point"... a play on words **antanaclasis**: a repeated word, with a shift in meaning **asteismus**: a reply using the same word in a different sense **double entendre**: a sexual pun with double or multiple understandings **paronomasia**: repeated words that are close but not exactly the same in sound **syllepsis**: a word is used once, with two meanings (if that word is a verb with two direct objects, it is also "zeugma")	"To England will I steal, and there I'll steal." – *Henry V* Professor Wagstaff: 'Tomorrow we start tearing down the college.' Professors: 'But professor, where will the students sleep?' Professor Wagstaff: 'Where they always sleep: in the classroom.' – Groucho Marx "second base" Customer: 'I'd like a Caesar salad.' Italian waiter: 'Sir! Are you sure you want the Scissor salad? You'll cut your mouth!' – wikipedia.org "We go a long way for you." – advertisement for a freight company (pure pun, no zeugma) "Give neither counsel nor salt till you are asked for it." – English proverb (zeugma + pun)
	purpose	purposeful	purposefully	the reason why the thesis is being posed by this person, to this audience, on this occasion	**Text Protocol**: compare to **thesis**
qualify	qualification	qualified		an argument that avoids all-or-nothing / black-and-white thinking, that explains <u>the extent</u> to which something is true, OR a qualified argument may objectively consider and refute opposing points of view	does not need to appear in the thesis but can... highly valued by academic thinkers, as opposed to more emotional, less objective argumentation... does NOT include timid / peacemaking "on the fence" essays that try to give credit to all sides
rely	reliability	reliable	reliably	the trustworthiness of a source of information, or of a statistic	Many Internet web sites are unreliable.

continued on the next page

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 11

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
repeat	repetition	repetitive	repetitively	words or ideas are repeated… when poorly done, it bores; when well-done, it links and emphasizes ideas while allowing the reader the comfort of recognizing something familiar	see **parallel structure** for repetition in syntax
	rhetoric, (rhetorical question)	rhetorical	rhetorically	GK "orator"… any strategy that aids in the art of persuasion	**rhetorical question** means a question in which everyone already knows the answer, and is posed in order to stop thinking… **rhetoric** or the study of argumentation is neutral, not negative… see **style**
	sarcasm	sarcastic	sarcastically	GK "to tear flesh"… bitter, caustic language that is meant to hurt or ridicule someone or something well-done is witty; poorly done is cruel	see **irony**
satirize	satire	satirical	satirically	a text that targets human vices and follies, or social institutions and conventions for reform or ridicule	Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle*
signify	significance	significant	significantly	the importance of a text to society or the wider world	**Text Protocol**
	simile			an explicit comparison of seemingly unlike things, suggesting some similarity (with the use of "like" or "as")	
	slang			vernacular speech sometimes humorous, often exaggerated, and words are often shortened for effect	slang is a type of **colloquialism** but there are other types of colloquialisms
speak	speaker	spoken		the "speaker" in a text is the writer / author or narrator	**Text Protocol**
standardize	standard language	standard		grammatically correct language and words accessible to educated readers	

continued on the next page

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 12

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
(stylize)	style	(stylish)	(stylishly)	purposes (1) an evaluation of the sum of the choices an author makes in blending diction, syntax, control, and tone… if these are used to persuade, it is rhetoric (2) classification and comparison of authors	see **diction, syntax, control, rhetoric, tone**
	subject			the "subject" in a text is the topic / what the author is writing about	**Text Protocol** – same as "topic" or "main idea"
	subjective language	subjective	subjectively	language dependent upon perspective more than facts	opposite of **objective**
support	support	supported		in rhetoric, evidence (including data) or reasoning that helps prove or favor the claim	support includes **evidence** (not the other way around)
	symbol, symbolism	symbolic	symbolically	**cultural symbolism**: something invested with meaning by a group (includes religious symbols)	the cross stands for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ
				literary symbolism: anything that stands for something else (usually something concrete representing something abstract)	the green light blinking at the end of Daisy's dock in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* stands for Jay Gatsby's window of opportunity
	synesthesia	synesthetic	synesthetically	GK "to feel or perceive together"… sense transfer… the translation of a physical sensation from one sense into another	wet silence… cool jazz… bright scent of daffodils… touching is our first language… loud shirt…
	syntax	syntactical	syntactically	the way an author chooses to join words into phrases, clauses, and sentences (**diction** is only about the words, not how they are joined)	see **style** …also see **Appendix L: Control Helper** for more about syntax

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 13

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
(text)	text	textual	textually	four basic types (below)	
argue	argumenta-tion	argumenta-tive	argumenta-tively	**argumentative text**: the purpose is to prove the validity of an idea, or point of view, by presenting sound reasoning, discussion, and argument that thoroughly convinces the reader (persuasive urges a form of action)	newspaper column, argumentative essay
describe	description	descriptive	descriptively	**descriptive text**: the purpose is to re-create, invent, or visually present a person, place, event or action so that the reader can picture that being described	newspaper article, poem
	exposition	expository	expositorily	**expository text**: the purpose is to explain and analyze information by presenting an idea, relevant evidence, and appropriate discussion	chapter in a school textbook
narrate	narration, narrative	narrative	narratively	**narrative text**: the purpose is to tell a story or narrate an event or series of events, freq. uses the tools of descriptive writing	novel, novella, play
	theme	thematic	thematically	central message of a work / the insight it offers (properly stated in the form of a sentence) **universal theme**: a theme that applies to all people, in all cultures, in all time frames	in a novel, a theme is a message or belief conveyed (usually indirectly) by the author
	thesis			sentence or group of sentences that directly expresses the author's opinion / main argument	**Text Protocol** – see **subject, purpose**
	tone			describes the author's attitude toward his or her material, the audience, or both (easier to determine in spoken language than in written language)	see **style, mood**
(transit)	transition	transitional	transitionally	a word or phrase that links different ideas (especially important in expository and argumentative texts)	however, thus, furthermore, in addition

List R: Rhetoric terminology, page 14

verb	noun	adjective	adverb	denotation	example & usage notes
	type of text			the type of writing employed by the writer	**Text Protocol** - see **text**
understate	understate-ment	understated		ironic minimizing of fact, presenting something as less significant than it is	"Last week I saw a woman flayed, and you will hardly believe how much it altered her person for the worse." - Jonathan Swift's *A Tale of a Tub*... "hyperbole" is the opposite
validate	validity	valid	validly	legal or scientific force	the validity of a source means whether or not the source is a valuable source of information for the question being researched... different from the "reliability" of a source
vulgarize	vulgar language, vulgarity	vulgar	vulgarly	language deficient in taste and refinement; coarse; base	profanity is a type of vulgarity
	wit	witty	wittily	intellectually amusing language that surprises and delights (implies perceptiveness and cleverness)	