



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

Salesian College Preparatory

AP Language and Composition Summer Packet

Hello incoming Juniors!

I look forward to having you in AP Language next year! This summer, you will be using an online program, *Albert*, to read various texts and answer AP style questions.

Some terms identified in the questions will be new or you may need a refresher. *Albert* will definitely push you out of your comfort zone. *Do not go quickly on these.* Space them out over the summer. I will be checking the time you spend on these assignments and that is a factor in your grade. If you do not understand what the questions is asking you, I encourage you to look up term definitions that might assist you in answering the question. The more you begin practicing and understanding, the better you will do in this course and on the AP Exam in the spring.

In addition to the texts you will be assigned on *Albert*, there are specific terms you need to know before you enter this class. Those terms can be found in the glossary at the end of Chapters 1 and 2 of *The Language of Composition, Second Edition*. These terms are an essential part of rhetorical analysis that we will be using consistently through the year and that you need to be able to add to your working vocabulary. You will be assessed on the meaning of these terms the first week back to school. To confirm, here is the list you need to know:

rhetorical triangle, audience, concession, connotation, context, counterargument, ethos, logos, occasion, pathos, persona, polemic, propaganda, purpose, refutation, rhetoric, rhetorical appeals, rhetorical triangle, SOAPS, speaker, subject, text, alliteration, allusion, anaphora, antimetabole, antithesis, archaic diction, asyndeton, cumulative sentence, hortative sentence, imperative sentence, inversion, juxtaposition, metaphor, oxymoron, parallelism, periodic sentence, personification, rhetorical question, synecdoche, zeugma

There are some terms that are not in the book that I would like you to know. Many may be refreshers:

Active Voice - The subject of the sentence performs the action. This is a more direct and preferred style of writing in most cases. "Anthony drove while Toni searched for the house." The opposite is passive voice – when the subject of the sentence receives the action. "The car was driven by Anthony." Passive voice is often overused, resulting in lifeless writing. When possible, try to use active voice.

Anecdote - A brief recounting of a relevant episode. Anecdotes are often inserted into fictional or non fictional texts as a way of developing a point or injecting humor.

Diction - Word choice, particularly as an element of style. Different types of words have significant effects on meaning. An essay written in academic diction would be much less colorful, but perhaps more precise than street slang. You should be able to describe an author's diction. You SHOULD NOT write in your thesis, "The author uses diction...". This is essentially saying, "The author uses words to write." (obvious!) Instead, describe the type of diction (for example, formal or informal, ornate or plain).

Colloquial - Ordinary or familiar type of conversation. A "colloquialism" is a common or familiar type of saying, similar to an adage or an aphorism.

Denotation - The literal, explicit meaning of a word, without its connotations.

Jargon – The diction used by a group which practices a similar profession or activity. Lawyers speak using particular jargon, as do soccer players.

Vernacular - 1. Language or dialect of a particular country. 2. Language or dialect of a regional clan or group. 3. Plain everyday speech

Imagery - Word or words that create a picture in the reader's mind. Usually this involves the five senses. Authors often use imagery in conjunction with metaphors, similes, or figures of speech.

Irony - When the opposite of what you expect to happen does.

Verbal irony - When you say something and mean the opposite/something different. For example, if your gym teacher wants you to run a mile in eight minutes or faster, but calls it a "walk in the park" it would be verbal irony. If your voice tone is bitter, it's called sarcasm.

Dramatic irony - When the audience of a drama, play, movie, etc. knows something that the character doesn't and would be surprised to find out. For example, in many horror movies, we (the audience) know who the killer is, which the victim-to-be has no idea who is doing the slaying. Sometimes the character trusts the killer completely when (ironically) he/she shouldn't.

Situational irony - Found in the plot (or story line) of a book, story, or movie. Sometimes it makes you laugh because it's funny how things turn out. (For example, Johnny spent two hours planning on sneaking into the movie theater and missed the movie. When he finally did manage to sneak inside he found out that kids were admitted free that day).

Mood - The atmosphere created by the literature and accomplished through word choice (diction). Syntax is often a creator of mood since word order, sentence length and strength and

complexity also affect pacing and therefore mood. Setting, tone, and events can all affect the mood.

Oxymoron – When apparently contradictory terms are grouped together and suggest a paradox – “wise fool,” “eloquent silence,” “jumbo shrimp.”

Pacing – The speed or tempo of an author’s writing. Writers can use a variety of devices (syntax, polysyndeton, anaphora, meter) to change the pacing of their words. An author’s pacing can be fast, sluggish, stabbing, vibrato, staccato, measured, etc.

Paradox - A seemingly contradictory situation which is actually true. “You can’t get a job without experience, and you can’t get experience without getting a job.”

Parallelism – (Also known as parallel structure or balanced sentences.) Sentence construction which places equal grammatical constructions near each other, or repeats identical grammatical patterns. Parallelism is used to add emphasis, organization, or sometimes pacing to writing. “Cinderella swept the floor, dusted the mantle, and beat the rugs.”

Syntax/sentence variety - Grammatical arrangement of words. This is perhaps one of the most difficult concepts to master. First, a reader should examine the length of sentences (short or long). How does sentence length and structure relate to tone and meaning. Are they simple, compound, compound-complex sentences? How do they relate to one another? Syntax is the grouping of words, while diction refers to the selection of individual words.

Tone - A writer's attitude toward his subject matter revealed through diction, figurative language and organization. To identify tone, consider how the piece would sound if read aloud (or how the author wanted it to sound aloud). Tone can be: playful, serious, businesslike, sarcastic, humorous, formal, somber, etc.

I hope you have a fantastic summer filled with adventures, quality time with those you love and some relaxing days, too. I can’t wait to see you in August. Email me with any questions over the summer. Next year is going to be a great year!

meschi@stfrancishigh.net