**AP Language and Composition**

**Vocabulary List**

**Week of 10/15 – 10/19**

**Vocabulary Quiz: Thursday 10/17**

**Sentence type of the week: periodic**

**anaphora –** A sub-type of *parallelism,* when the exact repetition of words or phrases at the beginning of successive lines

or sentences. MLK used anaphora in his famous “I Have a Dream” speech (1963).

**parody –** A work that closely imitates the style or content of another with the specific aim of comic effect and/or ridicule. It

exploits peculiarities of an author’s expression (propensity to use too many parentheses, certain favorite words, etc.)

Well-written parody offers enlightenment about the original, but poorly written parody offers only ineffectual imitation.

Usually an audience must grasp literary allusion and understand the work being parodied in order to fully appreciate the

nuances of the newer work. Occasionally, however, parodies take on a life of their own and don’t require knowledge of

the original.

**pedantic –** An adjective that describes words, phrases, or general tone that is overly scholarly, academic, or bookish (language that

might be described as “show-offy”; using big words for the sake of using big words).

**periodic sentence –** The opposite of *loose sentence*, a sentence that presents its central meaning in a main clause at the end. This

independent clause is preceded by a phrase or clause that cannot stand alone. The effect of a periodic sentence is to add

emphasis and structural variety. It is also a much stronger sentence than the loose sentence. (Example: After a long,

bumpy flight and multiple delays, I arrived at the San Diego airport.)

**personification –** A figure of speech in which the author presents or describes concepts, animals, or inanimate objects by

endowing them with human attributes or emotions. Personification is used to make these abstractions, animals, or objects

appear more vivid to the reader.

**point of view –** In literature, the perspective from which a story is told. There are two general divisions of point of view, and

many subdivisions within those.

(1) *first person narrator* tells the story with the first person pronoun, “I,” and is a character in the story. This narrator

can be the protagonist, a secondary character, or an observing character.

(2) *third person narrator* relates the events with the third person pronouns, “he,” “she,” and “it.” There are two main

subdivisions to be aware of:

a. *third person omniscient*, in which the narrator, with godlike knowledge, presents the thoughts and actions of

any or all characters

b. *third person limited omniscient*, in which the narrator presents the feelings and thoughts of only one

character, presenting only the actions of all the remaining characters.

In addition, be aware that the term *point of view* carries an additional meaning. When you are asked to analyze the

author’s point of view, the appropriate point for you to address is the author’s *attitude*.

**prose –** one of the major divisions of genre, prose refers to fiction and nonfiction, including all its forms. In prose the printer

determines the length of the line; in poetry, the poet determines the length of the line.

**repetition –** The duplication, either exact or approximate, of any element of language, such as a sound, word, phrase, clause,

sentence, or grammatical pattern.

**rhetoric –** From the Greek for “orator,” this term describes the principles governing the art of writing effectively, eloquently, and

persuasively.

**rhetorical modes –** This flexible term describes the variety, the conventions, and the purposes of the major kinds of writing. The

four most common rhetorical modes (often referred to as “modes of discourse”) are as follows:

(1) The purpose of *exposition* (or expository writing) is to explain and analyze information by presenting an idea,

relevant evidence, and appropriate discussion. The AP language exam essay questions are frequently expository

topics.

(2) The purpose of *argumentation* is to prove the validity of an idea, or point of view, by presenting sound reasoning,

discussion, and argument that thoroughly convince the reader. *Persuasive* writing is a type of argumentation having

an additional aim of urging some form of action.

(3) The purpose of *description* is to recreate, invent, or visually present a person, place, event or action so that the reader

can picture that being described. Sometimes an author engages all five senses in description; good descriptive

writing can be sensuous and picturesque. Descriptive writing may be straightforward and objective or highly

emotional an subjective.

(4) The purpose of *narration* is to tell a story or narrate an event or series of events. This writing mode frequently uses

the tools of descriptive writing.