

GLOSSARY

Affix: A bound morpheme (non word) that changes the meaning or function of a root or stem to which it is attached, such as the prefix *ad-* and suffix *-ing* in *adjoining*.

Allegory: A story with two meanings, a literal meaning and a symbolic meaning.

Alliteration: The repetition of initial consonant sounds in neighboring words.

Allusion: An implied or indirect reference in literature to a familiar person, place or event.

Alphabetic Principle: The assumption underlying alphabetic writing systems that each speech sound or phoneme of a language should have its own distinctive graphic representation.

Analogy: A similarity in words, phrases, situations, etc. between things otherwise unrelated.

Analysis: The process or result of identifying the parts of a whole and their relationships to one another.

Anecdote: A humorous story or real-life example used to elaborate.

Anecdotal Scripting: The systematic recording of behavioral incidents cited in a literary work for purposes of organization and clarity.

Annotated Bibliography: The inclusion of additional comments in the works listed in a standard bibliography.

Antecedent: A word, phrase or clause to which a following pronoun refers. (e.g., *Elizabeth* tried, but *she* couldn't locate the address. *Elizabeth* is the antecedent of *she*.)

Antagonist: The character or force in a literary work that is in direct opposition to the protagonist.

Antonym: A word that is the opposite of another word.

Apostrophe: A literary convention in which a character onstage speaks to an inanimate object (e.g., in Shakespeare's *MacBeth*, MacBeth addresses the knife).

Appositive: A word or phrase that restates or modifies an immediately preceding noun. Example: My son, *Rafael*, is fifteen years old. *Rafael* is an appositive.

Archetype: The original pattern or model of which all things of the same type are representations or copies; a perfect example.

Aside: A line spoken by a character in a play that other characters on stage do not hear.

Base Word: A word to which affixes may be added to create related words.

Blend: A combination of sounds represented by letters to pronounce a word; sounding out the joining of the sounds represented by two or more letters with a minimal change in those sounds, such as the consonant cluster in */gr/* in *grow*, */spl/* in *splash*

Characterization: The method an author uses to reveal characters and their various personalities.

Character Foil: A character in a literary or dramatic work who, by strong contrast, underscores the distinctive characteristics of another.

Clause: A group of words that contains a subject and a verb.

Climax: The turning point in the plot action; the highest point of suspense/drama in a literary work.

Comedy: A piece of dramatic literature that ends happily. The protagonist may be an ordinary person. Comedies are usually concerned with exposing human folly. Wit, humor and a sense of festivity are often found in comedies.

Compare: Place together characters, situations or ideas to show common or differing features in literary selections.

Complement: The word (or words) that completes the action of the predicate in a sentence.

Connotation: The nuances of meaning associated with a word

Content: The characteristic of effective writing which addresses information and details that are important to the topic and relevant to the focus of a written composition.

Context clues: Information from the reading that identifies a word or group of words.

Conventions of Language: The characteristic of effective language

which addresses mechanics, usage and sentence completeness.

Denotation: The literal definition of a word.

Denouement: The point in the plot that occurs after the climax; also called *Falling Action*.

Diction: The choice and use of words in speech or writing.

Digraphs: Two letters that represent one speech sound, such as *ch* for /ch/ in chin or *ea* for /e/ in bread

Dramatic Monologue: A dramatic device in which a character reveals his/he feelings to another character onstage.

Evaluate: Examine and judge carefully.

Etymology: The history of words; the study of the history of words

Exposition: A form of composition intended to set forth or explain.

Fallacy: A misleading notion; a false or erroneous idea upon which an argument is based. Some common fallacies include:

attack ad hominem: An attack “against the man”; a fallacious attack in which the argument is directed at the person who asserts or defends a conclusion

false causality: Any reasoning that relies upon treating the cause of a thing upon that which is not really its cause.

red herring: A distractor that draws attention away from the real issue.

Figurative Language: Language that cannot be taken literally since it was written to create a special effect or feeling.

Flashback: A literary device in which an earlier event is inserted into the normal chronological order of a narrative.

Fluency: The clear, easy, written or spoken expression of ideas. Freedom from word-identification problems which might hinder comprehension in silent reading or the expression of ideas in oral reading.

Focus: The characteristic of effective writing which addresses awareness of audience and task, purpose, point of view and clarity of ideas.

Foreshadowing: A hint given by the author that suggest events to come.

Genre: A category used to classify literary works, usually by form, technique or content (e.g., prose, poetry).

Graphic Organizer: A diagram or pictorial device that shows relationships.

High Frequency Word: A word that appears many more times than most other words in spoken or written language.

Homograph: A word with the same spelling as another word but having a different meaning and sometimes a different pronunciation Example: *Bow*, as in “*bow* and arrow” compared to “*bow* of a ship”

Homophone: One of two or more words pronounced alike, but different in spelling or meaning (e.g., hair/hare,

scale (fish)/scale (musical)).

Hyperbole: An exaggeration or overstatement (e.g., *I was so embarrassed I could have died.*)

Idiomatic Language: An expression peculiar to itself grammatically or that cannot be understood if taken literally (e.g., *Let's get on the ball.*)

Imagery: The use of vivid descriptions or figures of speech in speaking or writing to produce mental images.

Information: A form of composition used to share knowledge and convey messages. It is a common writing strategy in personal, academic and job-related areas.

Irony: The use of a word or phrase to mean the exact opposite of its literal or usual meaning; incongruity between the actual result of a sequence of events and the expected result.

Literary Analysis: The study of a literary work by a critic, student, or scholar; a careful, detailed reading and report thereof.

Literary Criticism: The analysis and judgment of works of literature. The body of principles by which the work of writers is judged.

Literary Conflict: The struggle that grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot.

Literary Elements: The essential techniques used in literature (e.g., characterization, setting, plot, theme).

Literary Devices: Tools used by the author to enliven and provide voice to the writing (e.g., dialogue, alliteration).

Literary Structures: The author's method of organizing text (e.g., foreshadowing, flashbacks).

Metaphor: The comparison of two unlike things in which no words of comparison (*like* or *as*) are used (e.g., *That new kid in class is really a squirrel.*).

Meter: The repetition of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry.

Mode: A type of writing. Three modes of writing are included in the Pennsylvania Writing Assessment: Narrative/Imaginative, Informational and Persuasive.

Modifier: A word that describes or clarifies another word.

Mood: The overall feeling of a literary work.

Monologue: A lengthy speech given by an actor onstage (delivered to other actors).

Narration: A form of composition which tells a story, actual or fictional. It requires the writer to relate, recall, and reflect creatively on a wide range of experiences and actions.

Onomatopoeia: The term used to describe words whose pronunciation suggest their meaning (e.g., buzz, meow)

Onset: The opening part or the letters before the vowel-bearing part of a word (e.g., *str* in *string*).

Organization: The characteristic of effective writing which addresses the logic and order present in a written composition. Transitions within sentences and between paragraphs are an important element of organization, as is the presence of an identifiable introduction, body and conclusion within a piece of writing.

Orthography: The study of the nature and use of symbols in a writing system; correct or standardized spelling according to established usage in any given language

Pace: The speed/variation of a voice during speaking.

Paraphrase: Restate text or passage in other words, often to clarify meaning or show understanding.

Parody: A literary work that mimics an author's style and holds it up to ridicule.

Pastoral: A literary work that portrays idealized rural life.

Pattern Book: A book with a predictable language structure and often written with predictable text; also known as predictable book.

Persona: A character in a literary or dramatic work.

Personification: An object or abstract idea given human qualities or human form (e.g., *Flowers danced about the lawn.*).

Persuasion: A form of composition in which the writer states, supports, and defends or argues a position, an opinion,

or an issue. It requires the writer to examine, organize, and evaluate a variety of situations in order to establish a position.

Phoneme: A minimal sound unit in speech that, when contrasted with another phoneme, affects the naming of words in a language (e.g., /b/ in *book* contrasts with /t/ in *took*, /k/ in *cook*, /h/ in *hook*).

Phonics: The relationship between letters and sounds fundamental in beginning reading.

Pitch: The relative level, intensity or extent of some quality of voice that contributes to the total meaning of speech.

Plot: The action of a story in which the events build on one another from the beginning to end.

Point of View: The way in which an author reveals characters, events and ideas in telling a story; the vantage point from which the story is told.

Prompt: A statement or group of statements about a specific topic, constructed to motivate students' thoughts and elicit their best writing.

Propaganda: Ideas, arguments, facts or allegations spread by deliberate effort through any medium of communication in order to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause.

Protagonist: The major character in a literary work around whom the action centers.

Public Document: A document that focuses on civic issues or matters of public policy at the community level and beyond.

Reading Critically: Reading in which a question

Reading Rate: The speed at which a person reads, usually silently.

Research: A systematic inquiry into a subject or problem in order to discover, verify or revise relevant facts or principles having to do with that subject or problem.

Rhetorical Strategies: The traditional forms of composition in speech and writing (e.g., exposition, narration, persuasion, and description).

Rime: The ending part of a word containing a vowel; not the same as rhyme (e.g., *ing* in the word *string*).

Rising Action: The progression of events within a story in which various problems arise and lead to the turning point of the plot.

Satire: A literary tone used to ridicule or make fun of human vice or weakness.

Script: An original text; a piece of written work divided into speaking parts (e.g., plays).

Self-monitor: Know when what one is reading or writing is not making sense; adjust strategies for comprehension.

Semantics: The study of meaning in language.

Sight Word: A word that is immediately recognized as a whole and

does not require a word analysis for identification

Simile: A comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (*like* or *as*) is used (e.g., *She eats like a bird.*).

Soliloquy: A lengthy speech given by an actor who is alone onstage.

Sources:

Primary: Text and/or artifacts that tell or show a first-hand account of an event; original works used when researching.

Secondary: Text and/or artifacts used when researching that are derived from something original.

Stanza: A grouping of four or more lines of poetry.

Subject Area: An organized body of knowledge; a discipline; a content area (e.g., social studies, art, science).

Standard American English: The language in which most educational texts, government and medial publications are written in the United States. *Note:* Standard American English is a relative concept which varies widely in and idiomatic use, but maintains a fairly uniform grammatical structure.

Style: The characteristic of effective writing which addresses how an author writes; an author's use of language; its effects and appropriateness to the author's intent and theme.

Synonym: One of two or more words in a language that have highly similar meanings (e.g., sorrow, grief, sadness).

Syntax: The pattern or structure of word order in sentences, clauses and phrases.

Tense: The time when the action of the verb takes place (e.g., present – like, past – liked, future – will like).

Theme: A topic of discussion or writing; a major idea broad enough to cover the entire scope of a literary work.

Thesis: The basic argument advanced by a speaker or writer who then attempts to prove it; the subject or major argument of a speech or composition.

Tone: The attitude of the author toward the audience and characters (e.g., serious or humorous).

Topic: The general category or class of ideas, often stated in a word or phrase, to which the ideas of a passage as a whole being.

Tragedy: A dramatic or literary work depicting a protagonist who undergoes a morally significant struggle which ends in ruin. Traditionally, the protagonist is a person of dignified, heroic stature who gains wisdom from his/her downfall.

Voice: The fluency, rhythm and liveliness in writing that makes it unique to the writer.

Active Voice: A verb form in which the subject of the verb carries out some action. (e.g., *He hit* the ball).

Passive Voice: A verb form in which the subject of the verb is the receiver or some action or state indicated by the verb (e.g., *He was hit* by the ball).

Volume: The degree of loudness or intensity of a sound.

Writing Process: The five steps through which a writer should progress during the creation of a written composition.

prewriting: The planning stage of writing. It is in this part of the writing process where authors clarify, organize and focus their thoughts.

drafting: The stage of the writing process where authors actually begin to craft their piece of writing.

revising: The stage of the writing process in which authors check for clarity of focus, content, organization and style.

editing: The stage of the writing process in which errors in the conventions of writing (e.g., spelling, mechanics, usage, agreement) are located and corrected.

publishing: The final stage of the writing process in which authors share their finished piece with an audience.