



Spring 2012 Update

The definitions in this glossary are intended to help the teachers of Texas develop a deeper understanding of the 2008 ELAR and SLAR TEKS. Many of the terms and definitions included in this glossary are specific to the content of the TEKS. These terms may have additional meanings in other contexts.

A

academic English words

1. words used in the learning of academic subject matter in a formal educational context that are associated with literacy and academic achievement, including specific academic terms, technical language, and speech registers related to each field of study
2. words used in instruction, exams, and textbooks

These could include words that are specific to content (e.g., *hyperbole*, *metaphor*, and *meter*) or that are related to learning tasks (e.g., *compare/contrast*, *differentiate*, and *infer*).

accessible language

language that is used so that readers who are unfamiliar with the subject can comprehend the text or discussion with ease

active voice

sentence structure in which the subject performs the action of the verb (e.g., *the dog bit the boy*) rather than being acted upon (e.g., *the boy was bitten by the dog*)

ad hominem

a rhetorical fallacy in which the intent is to attack the character or circumstance of the proponent of the position in order to distract from the argument

This personal attack is intended to devalue the claim without regard for the evidence provided. For example, consider the following interchange:

Person A: It is important to give vaccines to children.

Person B: Of course you would say that. You are a nurse.

Person A: I provided research and evidence to support my opinion. Did you read that?

Person B: That doesn't matter. You are a nurse, and just like everyone else in the medical world, you are trying to make a buck.

adjectival clause

a group of words with a subject and a verb that acts as an adjective by describing a noun or pronoun (e.g., the young man *who is sitting near the door* is my son)

Relative pronouns (*who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which*, *that*) usually introduce the adjectival clause, but clauses may also begin with relative adverbs (*when*, *where*, *why*).

adjectival phrase

a prepositional or participle phrase that acts like an adjective and modifies a noun or a pronoun (e.g., the dog *showing off* is mine)

adverbial clause

a group of words with a subject and a verb that acts as an adverb by modifying a verb, an adjective, or another adverb (e.g., I will go home *when the party is over*)

adverbial phrase

a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb (e.g., the tennis courts stay open late *into the evening*)

aesthetic effects

the use of language as an artistic medium to create imagery that evokes sensory perception

Texts in which language can be used aesthetically include fiction, drama, films, and poetry.

affix

a word element, such as a prefix or suffix, that occurs before or after a root or base word to modify its meaning (e.g., the prefix *un-* and the suffix *-able* in *unbelievable*)

allegory

a story that has both a literal and a symbolic meaning

In an allegory, characters or objects often embody abstract ideas (e.g., John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* or George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*).

alliteration

the repetition of the same sounds at the beginning of two or more adjacent words or stressed syllables (e.g., *furrow followed free* in Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*)

allusion

a reference within a literary work to another work of literature, art, or real event

The reference is often brief and implied. A **mythological allusion** is a direct or indirect reference to a character or event in mythology (e.g., Shakespeare’s frequent allusions to Hercules in his plays). A **biblical allusion** is a reference to a character or event from the Bible. (For example, referring to a character as a “Judas” is an allusion to the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot.)

analogy

1. a vocabulary exercise in which an association between a concept and its attribute is present (e.g., hot : cold as north : _____)
2. figurative language that makes comparisons in unexpected ways

A literary analogy is often an extended comparison. The purpose is to show similarities in process or in structure. For example, an author might compare a visit to a flea market to an all-you-can-eat buffet, carrying this comparison through a paragraph, a section of the work, or an entire piece.

analytical essay

an essay that analyzes and interprets a work of literature by using specific examples from the text to build a logical argument beyond a summary or description of the work

anecdotal

based on personal observation (as opposed to scientific evidence)

anecdote

a short narrative that relates an interesting or amusing incident, usually in order to make or support a larger point

antecedent

the noun that a pronoun refers to (e.g., *Iris* is the antecedent of *she* in *Iris tried, but she couldn't find the book*)

antithesis

the direct opposite; a rhetorical contrast using parallels within a sentence (e.g., *give me liberty or give me death*)

aphorism

a concise statement of a general truth or principle (e.g., *a penny saved is a penny earned*)

appeal

in rhetoric, the means of persuasion in an argument

According to Aristotle, there are three fundamental appeals to convince a person: reason (*logos*), ethics (*ethos*), and emotion (*pathos*).

appositive phrase

a phrase that appears directly after a noun or pronoun to describe or rename the noun or pronoun (e.g., Mr. Jones, *the Nobel Prize winner for literature*, is teaching the class)

archetype

a model image, personage, or theme that recurs in stories and myths throughout history and literature

argumentative essay

an essay in which the writer develops or debates a topic using logic and persuasion

assertion

an opinion or declaration stated with conviction

audience

the intended target group for a message, regardless of the medium

autobiography

the life story of a person, as told by himself or herself

automaticity

reading fluently and without difficulty or attention to decoding

B

bandwagon appeal

a persuasive technique used in media messages that appeals to the “everyone is doing it” mentality

bibliographic information

the locating information about a source (i.e., book, journal, periodical, or website)

For example, a book’s bibliographic information consists of author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date of publication. See a style guide for specific formatting rules (e.g., MLA, Chicago, APA).

blending

combining spoken phonemes to form syllables and words (e.g., /m//a//n/ to make *man*; in Spanish, /s//o//l/ to make *sol*)

blog

an online personal journal that often contains commentary, reflections, and hyperlinks to other web content

Blog is a contraction of the term *web log*.

brainstorming

a technique in which many ideas are generated quickly and without judgment or evaluation, usually as part of a problem-solving process or to inspire creative thinking

Brainstorming may be done in a classroom, with a small group, or individually.

C

caricature

a distortion of characteristics or defects of a person or thing, either in a picture or in words

case study

a form of qualitative research that focuses on a particular participant or small group

Information gained through this descriptive research applies only to the group studied.
No universal truth or discovery can emerge from the study.

categorical claim

a rhetorical fallacy in which a claim is based on the often faulty logic of relating two things solely because they are in the same category

character foil

a secondary character who contrasts with the protagonist in order to highlight aspects of the main character's personality

Foils may be sidekicks (e.g., Han Solo to Luke Skywalker) or enemies (e.g., the Joker to Batman).

circle story

a convention in myths and epic tales in which the story begins and ends in the same place

The “place” is usually a physical setting.

circular logic

a logical fallacy in which an assumption is made in a definition or argument that includes the very point that one is trying to prove (e.g., *I love Mr. Johnson's class because I'm always happy in there*)

classical literature

literature that is widely acknowledged for its outstanding and enduring qualities

classical play

a play that is widely acknowledged for its outstanding and enduring qualities (e.g., *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare)

closure

a sense of certainty or completeness; a bringing to an end

cognate

a word related in meaning and form to a word in another language or languages because of a common origin (e.g., *mother* [English], *moeder* [Dutch], *moder* [Danish], *mater* [Latin], *matr* [Sanskrit], etc.)

coherent

logically ordered, with consistent relations of parts to the whole (e.g., *a coherent essay*)

coherent argument

a logical argument that is clear, precise, and ordered

comparative

the form of an adjective (or adverb) used to compare two or more things (or actions)

Comparatives are formed using *-er* (e.g., *taller*, *faster*), *-ier* (e.g., *happier*), or the word *more* (e.g., *more traditional*, *more quickly*).

complex consonant

a cluster or blend of two or more consonants (e.g., *scr-*, *bl-*, and *-tch*)

complex sentence

a sentence with an independent clause and at least one dependent clause (e.g., *I cleaned the room when the guests left*)

compound sentence

a sentence composed of at least two independent clauses linked with a conjunction or semicolon (e.g., *Sam talked, and Emma listened*)

compound-complex sentences

a compound sentence with at least one dependent clause (e.g., *dogs bark and birds sing when they are happy*)

conceit

an extended metaphor in poetry or literature that is often fanciful or elaborate (e.g., *Our eye-beams twisted, and did thread/Our eyes upon one double string* in John Donne’s “The Extasie”)

conflict

in literature, the opposition of persons or forces that brings about dramatic action central to the plot of a story

Conflict may be internal, as a psychological conflict within a character, or external (e.g., man versus man, man versus nature, or man versus society).

conjunctive adverb

an adverb (e.g., *however*, *nonetheless*, *therefore*) that introduces or connects independent clauses and that shows cause and effect, comparison, contrast, or some other relationship between clauses

connotative meaning

the emotions or set of associations attached to a word that is implied rather than literal (e.g., feeling *blue*)

consistent tenses

the use of the same verb tense throughout a sentence, paragraph, or essay

Shifting from one verb tense to another should be done only when demonstrating a shift in time.

consonant blend

a sequence of two or more consonants (e.g., *bl-* in *black*; in Spanish, *br-* in *brazo*)

consonant digraph

a combination of two consonant letters to stand for a single speech sound (e.g., *gn* for /n/ in *gnaw* or *gh* for /f/ in *tough*)

contemporary folktale

a folktale that is set in a contemporary context (e.g., *Cinder Edna*)

content vocabulary

language that is specific to a discipline

context

1. the words, sentences, or passages that precede or follow a specific word, sentence, or passage
2. the set of circumstances that surround a particular event, situation, character, and so forth

controlling idea

the main point or underlying direction of a piece of writing

A controlling idea makes the reader ask a question that will be answered by reading more or helps the reader understand the author's purpose for writing the paragraph or essay.

controlling image

an image or metaphor that is repeated throughout a literary work

cultural diversity

regional, economic, social, and ethnic differences that may be represented through subject matter and/or characters

D

decodable text

text in which the majority of words (80%–90%) contain sound–symbol relationships that have already been taught

Decodable texts are used to practice specific decoding skills and to apply phonics in early reading.

decoding

applying knowledge of letter–sound relationships in order to sound out a word

In reading practice, the term is used primarily to refer to word identification rather than word comprehension.

deductive reasoning

the process of logical reasoning from general principles to specific instances based on the assumed truth of the principle; reasoning from wholes to parts

An essay that begins with a main thesis that is then supported by details uses deductive reasoning.

denotative meaning

the dictionary definition of a word; the literal or cognitive meaning

dependent adverbial clause

See “adverbial clause.”

dependent clause

a group of words with a subject and a verb that modifies the main or independent clause to which it is joined (e.g., *until you leave* in *I will wait until you leave*); also called a subordinate clause

diacritical accent

an accent mark used to differentiate homographs or modify pronunciation (e.g., *se/sé, el/él, tu/tú*)

dialogue

the lines spoken between characters in fiction or a play

Dialogue in a play is the main way in which plot, character, and other elements are established.

diction

1. choice of words in speaking or writing for clear and effective expression
2. clarity of speech; enunciation

digital media

electronic media that work on digital codes (as opposed to analog media)

Examples include e-mail, digital videos, e-books, Internet, video games, and interactive media.

digraph

two successive letters that represent a single speech sound (e.g., *th* in *thing*, *oo* in *moon*, *ou* in *out*, and *ow* in *how*; in Spanish, *ll* in *llave*)

diphthong

a combination of two vowel sounds in one syllable to form a new phoneme (e.g., /ow/ in *howl*, /ou/ in *cloud*, and /oi/ in *boil*; in Spanish, /ui/ in *fui*, /ie/ in *viernes*, and /oi/ in *oigan*)

docudrama

a dramatization (as for television) of recent or historical events based on fact

dramatic convention

a set of rules the actor, writer, and/or director employs to create a desired dramatic effect that is understood by the audience

For example, when a character recites a soliloquy in a play by moving downstage, the audience understands that the other characters on the stage cannot hear him or her.

dramatic irony

See “irony.”

drawing conclusions

a form of inference in which the reader gathers information, considers the general thoughts or ideas that emerge from the information, and comes to a decision

The conclusion is generally based on more than one piece of information.

E

elements of fiction

narrative aspects, including setting, characters, plot, and theme

embedded quotations

direct quotations incorporated smoothly into the text of a composition (e.g., *Susa [2006] describes sarcasm as “language of the weak and fearful” [p. 26]*)

empirical

based on observation or experience, as opposed to theory

epic poetry

a long narrative poem, usually chronicling the deeds of a folk hero and written using both dramatic and narrative literary techniques (e.g., Homer’s *Iliad* or John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*)

epigraph

a quotation at the beginning of a literary work to introduce its theme

etymology

the origin and history of a word; the study of word derivation

exaggeration

an overstatement or a representation of more than is true

explicit theme

See “theme.”

expository text

a type of informational text that clarifies or explains something

extended metaphor

See “metaphor.”

extended simile

See “simile.”

external coherence

organization of the major components of a written composition—introduction, body, conclusion, or, in the case of a multiparagraph essay, the paragraphs—in a logical sequence so that they flow easily and progress from one idea to another while still holding true to the central idea of the composition

external response of the characters

a response demonstrated by the character through speech or actions

eye rhyme

two words with similar spelling but different sounds (often used to maintain a rhyme scheme in poetry)

Love/remove is an example of an eye rhyme from the prologue of *Romeo and Juliet*:

*The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage.*

F

false assumption

flawed ideas that emerge when a reader pieces information together solely by inference and fails to consider other possible interpretations

figurative language

language not intended to be taken literally but layered with meaning through the use of imagery, metaphors, and other literary devices

first-person point of view

See “point of view.”

fluency

the ability to read text at an appropriate rate, and with accuracy, expression, and appropriate phrasing; not hurried reading

Accuracy is reading words in text with no errors. **Oral reading accuracy** is the ability to identify or decode words with appropriate pronunciation and is measured as a percentage of words read correctly.

formal presentation

a speech, symposium, or other presentation that is produced for an audience after careful planning

frustrational reading level

the level at which a reader reads at less than 90% accuracy (i.e., no more than one error per 10 words read)

Frustrational-level text is difficult for the reader.

G

genre

the type or class of a work, usually categorized by form, technique, or content

Some examples of literary genres are epic, tragedy, comedy, poetry, novel, short story, and creative nonfiction.

gerund

a word derived from a verb ending in *-ing* that is used as a noun (e.g., *reading* is fun)

graphic art

art form using visual images to convey a message or provide an aesthetic experience

graphic elements of poetry

capital letters, line length, and word position; also called the “shape” of a poem

graphophonemic knowledge

the recognition of the letters of the alphabet and the understanding of sound–symbol relationships and spelling patterns

H

hasty generalization

a conclusion drawn from limited or insufficient evidence and often the result of bias

hero’s tasks, the

a convention in myths and epic tales in which the hero embarks on a journey and must complete a series of tests or challenges along the way

hiatus

the brief pause between two consecutive vowels pronounced in different syllables (e.g., in Spanish, *fideo* and *poeta*)

hierarchic structure

an expository organizational structure used by a writer to present the most important piece of information first and work down to the least important information

high-frequency words

a small group of 300–500 words that account for a large percentage of words in print

Often, they are referred to as “sight words” because automatic recognition of these words is required for fluent reading.

homograph

a word that is spelled the same as another word but that has a different meaning (e.g., *read* [present tense] and *read* [past tense]; in Spanish, *vino* [*la bebida*] and *vino* [*del verbo venir*], *saco* [*del verbo sacar*] and *saco* [*la vestimental*])

homonym

a word that is pronounced and usually spelled the same way as another word but that has a different meaning (e.g., *fair*, meaning “unbiased,” and *fair*, meaning “light-colored”)

homophone

a word that is pronounced the same, but not spelled the same, as another word and that has a different meaning (e.g., *bear* and *bare*, *week* and *weak*; in Spanish, *tubo* and *tuvo*, *deshecho* and *desecho*)

hyperbole

an intentional and extreme exaggeration for emphasis or effect (e.g., *this book weighs a ton*)

I**idiom**

an expression that has a different meaning from the literal meaning of its individual words (e.g., *have the upper hand* or *under the weather*)

Idioms are particular to a given language and usually cannot be translated literally.

imagery

the use of language to create mental images and sensory impressions

Imagery can be used for emotional effect and to intensify the impact on the reader. The following is an example of imagery from *Romeo and Juliet*: *Her eyes in heaven/ Would through the airy region stream so bright/ That birds would sing and think it were not night* (2.2.20–22).

implicit assumption

an assumption that is not directly expressed but nonetheless understood either consciously or unconsciously

implicit theme

See “theme.”

incorrect premise

a faulty idea that is used as the foundation of an argument

indefinite pronoun

a pronoun that does not refer to a specific person or thing (e.g., *whoever*, *anything*)

independent clause

a group of words containing a subject and a verb that can stand alone as a complete sentence; also called a main clause

inductive reasoning

the process of determining general principles by logic or observation from specific data; reasoning from parts to whole (e.g., *all ice I've ever felt is cold; therefore, all ice is cold*)

inference

a logical guess made by connecting bits of information

A **subtle inference** is one in which the bits of information are not as easily connected.

infinitive

the uninflected or base form of the verb, usually preceded by *to* (e.g., *to go*)

inflectional ending/suffix

letters that combine with a base word to express tense, number, mood, or person (e.g., *-s*, *-ing*, and *-ed*)

informal play

an activity in which students invent and enact dramatic situations for themselves rather than for an outside audience; also referred to as informal classroom drama

informal presentation

a report, conversation, discussion, or dialogue that occurs without extensive preparation

informational text

text that presents information, including expository, persuasive, and procedural text

internal coherence

a logical organization and fluid progression of ideas and/or sentences

A piece of writing with internal coherence does not contradict itself.

internal response of a character

a response demonstrated through inner thoughts and feelings

internal rhyme

a rhyme within the same line of verse (e.g., *dreary* and *weary* in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven": *Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary*)

interpretative response

an analysis of a piece of literature in which the writer takes apart what was written by another author and explains it

irony

a literary technique used to create meaning that seems to contradict the literal meaning or events

Verbal irony is the use of words in which the intended meaning is contrary to the literal meaning (e.g., *I could care less*). **Situational irony** is a literary technique for implying, through plot or character, that the actual situation is quite different from that presented. **Dramatic irony** is a dramatic device in which a character says or does something that he or she does not fully grasp but which is understood by the audience.

irregular verb

a verb that does not follow the normal rules of conjugation (e.g., *go, went, gone* as forms of *to go*)

J**journey of a hero**

an example of an archetype commonly seen in mythology in which an adventure is presented to a would-be hero

During this adventure, the hero encounters challenges that must be overcome. Once these are overcome, the hero returns to share the benefits of his or her learning.

L**leading question**

a question worded to suggest the desired response (e.g., *What do you think of the horrible effects of socialism?*)

level of formality

formal, semiformal, or informal writing style determined by the writer's purpose and the intended audience

limited point of view

See "point of view."

literary device

a specific convention or structure—such as imagery, irony, or foreshadowing—that is employed by the author to produce a given effect

Literary devices are important aspects of an author's style.

literary nonfiction

a type of narrative based on actual persons, places, and things

In literary nonfiction, a writer may construct text in any number of ways and is not limited to the organizational patterns normally associated with nonfiction texts.

literary technique

the conscious choice of words or construction by an author to convey meaning; an author’s style

literary text

written works that are generally recognized as having artistic value

Basic forms of literary text include prose fiction, drama, poetry, and literary nonfiction.

loaded term

a term or phrase that has strong emotional overtones and that is meant to evoke strong reactions beyond the specific meaning (e.g., *tax relief* instead of *tax cut* or *death tax* instead of *estate tax*)

logical fallacy

an incorrect or problematic argument that is not based on sound reasoning

logical order

how a writer organizes text when building an argument

The writer presents ideas or information in a sequence that makes sense to him or her and addresses the audience’s needs.

lyric poetry

short poems expressing personal feelings and emotions that may be set to music and often involve the use of regular meter

M

magic helper

a stylistic element used by the author in the genre of fantasy to introduce magic into the story (e.g., the fairy godmother in *Cinderella*)

main clause

See “independent clause.”

mechanics

in writing, the use of standard rules of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage, as opposed to expressive or artistic considerations

metacognition

an awareness of one's own thinking processes and how they work

Metacognitive strategies can be taught to students to help them learn and read better.

metaphor

a subtle comparison in which the author describes a person or thing using words that are not meant to be taken literally (e.g., *time is a dressmaker specializing in alterations*)

An **extended metaphor** is a metaphor in which the comparison is carried through several lines or even the entire literary work.

meter

the basic rhythmic structure in verse, composed of stressed and unstressed syllables

The most common meter in English verse is iambic pentameter.

metrics

the study of the rhythm or meter in verse; also called prosody

monologue

a dramatic convention in which a speech is given by a single character, either alone or to others

mood

the atmosphere or feeling created by the writer in a literary work or passage

Mood can be expressed through imagery, word choice, setting, voice, and theme. For example, the mood evoked in Edgar Allan Poe's work is gloomy and dark.

morpheme

the smallest part of a word that has meaning and cannot be divided into smaller parts (e.g., *in*, *-ed*; in Spanish, *-mente*)

morphological analysis

the analysis of language based on the segmentation of words into morphemes and with a focus on the patterns of word formation

motif

the recurring or dominant structure of a literary work; the intentional repetition of a word, phrase, event, or idea as a unifying theme

multilayered media

See "multimedia."

multimedia

the use of several different media (i.e., text, audio, graphics, video, and/or animation) integrated to convey a single message

multisyllabic word

a word having more than one syllable

mythic literature

a body of traditional or sacred stories to explain a belief or a natural happening

mythological allusion

See “allusion.”

mythology

the body of myths from a particular culture

noncount noun

a singular-form noun that cannot be made plural because it is considered as a whole unit rather than parts

Noncount nouns also include abstractions (e.g., *progress*) or words that have collective meaning (e.g., *furniture*).

Examples of noncount nouns include *anger*, *courage*, *advice*, *homework*, *water*, *air*, *clothing*, *coffee*, *warmth*, and *rice*.

nonrestrictive relative clause

a phrase or clause that adds descriptive detail to a noun without limiting its meaning (e.g., *who likes ice cream* in the sentence *Claire, who likes ice cream, is from Ohio*)

In English, a nonrestrictive clause is usually set off by commas.

non sequitur

a logical fallacy in which an inference is made that does not follow from its premise (e.g., *if I buy this car, everyone will love me*)

nuance

a subtle distinction or fine detail

O

objective point of view

See “point of view.”

omniscient point of view

See “point of view.”

onomatopoeia

the use of words that sound like what they mean (e.g., *buzz* and *purr*); a poetic device to produce this effect

onset

the initial sound of a word (e.g., /c/ in *cat*; in Spanish, /p/ in *papa*)

open-ended research question

a type of question used to encourage many possible responses rather than a single directed one (e.g., *What are the effects of watching TV while studying?*)

oral reading accuracy

See “fluency.”

organization of a paper

the development of ideas in a coherent manner

In a well-organized paper, main points should be supported, each idea should flow sequentially and logically to the next idea, transitions should connect ideas, and extraneous sentences should not be included.

organizational pattern

the pattern an author constructs as he or she organizes his or her ideas and provides supporting details

Examples of commonly used patterns are cause and effect, problem and solution, description, and order of importance.

organizational schema

See “organization of a paper.”

organizational strategy

See “organization of a paper.”

organizing structure

See “organization of a paper.”

orthographic accent

the graphic accent mark used to indicate a stressed syllable (*silaba tonica*) in Spanish (e.g., *avión*)

orthographic pattern

the visual representation of the arrangement of letters in a given language

overstatement

an exaggerated statement

P

palabra aguda

a Spanish word that has a prosodic or orthographic accent on the last syllable (e.g., *feliz, canción*)

palabra esdrújula

a Spanish word that has an orthographic accent on the third-to-last syllable (e.g., *ultimo*)

palabra grave

a Spanish word that has a prosodic or orthographic accent on the second-to-last syllable (e.g., *casa, árbol*)

palabra sobresdrújula

a Spanish word that has an orthographic accent on the fourth-to-last syllable (e.g., *cuídamelo*)

paradox

a seemingly contradictory statement that on closer scrutiny reveals a deeper truth (e.g., *life is but a dream*)

parallel structure

1. the use of the same grammatical structure (i.e., noun phrases, verb phrases) within a sentence or in a bulleted list
2. a rhetorical device in which the same grammatical structure is used within a sentence or paragraph to show that two or more ideas have equal importance

paraphrase

to restate the meaning of something in different words

Paraphrasing alters the exact wording of the source and transmits its ideas or information without evaluation or interpretation.

parenthetical information

information that is amplifying or explanatory and is usually set off from the main passage by commas, dashes, or parentheses

parody

a work created to make fun of or spoof an original work

A **visual parody**, for example, would be Marcel Duchamp's addition of a mustache to the *Mona Lisa*. Jonathan Swift's *A Modest Proposal* is an example of **textual parody** (in which he proposes that the Irish eat children to solve the problem of starvation).

participle

a verb form incorporating the use of *-ed* or *-ing* for regular verbs and using the third principle part of the verb for irregular verbs

These verb forms are used to form the perfect tenses (e.g., *Jim had spoken*) or to serve as modifiers (e.g., *the writing assignment*).

passive voice

sentence structure in which the subject of the verb is being acted upon by the verb (e.g., *he was hit by the ball*)

pattern of verse

the regular or predictable arrangement of sections or lines of poetry

perfect tenses

verb forms that indicate an act that has been completed

In the present perfect tense, the auxiliary verb *has* or *have* is used (e.g., *has taken*). In the past perfect tense, the auxiliary verb *had* is used (e.g., *had taken*). In the future perfect tense, the auxiliary verb *shall have* or *will have* is used (e.g., *shall have taken*).

personal narrative

an expressive literary piece written in first person that centers on a particular event in the author's life and may contain vivid description as well as personal commentary and observations

personification

figurative language in which nonhuman things or abstractions are represented as having human qualities (e.g., *necessity is the mother of invention*)

persuasive text

text written with the intent to persuade or convince the reader of something

phoneme

the smallest unit of sound in speech (e.g., the /s//a//d/ of *sad*; in Spanish, /l//a/ and /d//a/)

phonemic awareness

the ability to identify, distinguish, and manipulate the individual sounds (phonemes) and/or syllables in words

phonics

a method of reading instruction that helps students build understanding of sound–symbol relationships and spelling patterns

phonogram

in word recognition, a graphic sequence that shares the same letter combination and sound, such as rhyming words (e.g., *-ed* in *red, bed, fed* or *-ake* in *bake, cake, lake*)

phonological awareness

an “umbrella” term that is used to refer to a student’s sensitivity to the sound structure in language

It encompasses awareness of individual words in sentences, syllables, and onset–rime segments, as well as awareness of individual phonemes.

plagiarize

to present the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source

plot

the basic sequence of events in a story

In conventional stories, plot has three main parts: rising action, climax, and falling action.

point of view

the perspective from which the events in the story are told

The author may choose to use any of the following:

1. **omniscient/third-person omniscient:** The narrator tells the story in third person from an all-knowing perspective. The knowledge is not limited by any one character’s view or behavior, as the narrator knows everything about all characters.
2. **omniscient/third-person limited:** The narrator restricts his or her knowledge to one character’s view or behavior.
3. **objective:** The narrator reveals only the actions and words without the benefit of the inner thoughts and feelings.
4. **first person/subjective:** The narrator restricts the perspective to that of only one character to tell the story.
5. **limited:** The story is told through the point of view of a single character and is limited to what he or she sees, hears, feels, or is told.

predicate adjective

an adjective used with a linking verb that describes the subject (e.g., *beautiful* in *Mary is beautiful*)

preposition

a word that relates its object to another word in the sentence (e.g., *at* in *at school* or *of* in *of your writing*)

prepositional phrase

a phrase that begins with a preposition and is followed by an object (e.g., *on the road* and *by her*)

primary source

a source from the time in which an event being studied occurred and created by someone who was present at the event

Examples of primary source documents include letters, speeches, diaries, surveys, fieldwork, and personal interviews.

print awareness

in emergent literacy, the understanding of the characteristics, nature, and uses of print

Understandings that are part of print awareness include the following:

- Environmental print conveys meaning.
- Books are read from front to back.
- Print is read from left to right and top to bottom.
- Words consist of letters.
- Spaces appear between words.

problem-and-solution

an organizational structure in which the author introduces the situation or conflict and then proceeds to explain how to correct the situation or resolve the conflict

procedural text

a type of informational text that is written with the intent to explain the steps in a procedure, as in a recipe

Procedural text could house data that requires reader interpretation.

progressive tense

a verb tense that indicates an action is ongoing (e.g., *is taking*)

The progressive tense may also be combined with the perfect tense (e.g., *has been taking* or *will have been taking*).

proposition-and-support

an organizational structure in which the writer first asserts an idea or opinion and then provides information to support the idea or opinion

prosodic accent

in Spanish, a stressed syllable (*sílaba tónica*) with no graphic accent mark (e.g., *calor*)

prosody

the vocal intonation and meter of spoken language

When reading with prosody, readers sound as if they are speaking the part they are reading.

purpose

the intended goal of a piece of writing; the reason a person writes

Q

quest, the

a convention in myths and epic tales in which the hero embarks on a journey and works to reach a goal (e.g., Jason's search for the Golden Fleece) in the course of his or her journey

quote

to repeat the exact words from a source

Credit should be given to the original source.

R

***r*-controlled**

a vowel that is followed by the consonant *r*, such that its pronunciation is influenced by the /*r*/ and is neither a long or short vowel sound (e.g., *farm*, *her*, *first*)

reaction shot

a visual technique in film and video in which the camera moves away from the main scene to show the reaction of a character

reciprocal pronoun

a pronoun expressing a mutual relationship (e.g., *each other* and *one another*)

relative pronoun

a pronoun that refers to an antecedent (e.g., *whom* in *the man whom you were talking to*)

Relative pronouns link a dependent clause to a main clause in a sentence.

reliable source

a credible or believable source

Some questions to evaluate credibility might be: Is the author a respected authority on the subject? Does the author support opinions with strong argumentation and reasoning? How current is the information?

resolution

the point in a literary work at which the story's problem is worked out

restrictive relative clause

a phrase or clause that limits the essential meaning of the noun or noun phrase it modifies (e.g., *who had a camera* in *the man who had a camera took our picture*)

rhetorical device

a technique that an author or speaker uses to influence or persuade an audience

rhetorical fallacy

an argument that is not sound but may still be convincing

Rhetorical fallacies may be divided into three categories:

1. Emotional fallacies appeal to the audience's emotions.
2. Ethical fallacies unreasonably advance the writer's own authority or character.
3. Logical fallacies depend upon faulty logic.

rhetorical purpose

the author's primary aim in a piece of writing

The rhetorical purpose could be to narrate, to argue, to review, to explain, or to examine.

rhetorical technique

See "rhetorical device."

rhyme scheme

the pattern of rhyming lines (e.g., ABAB, ABBA)

rime

the terminal syllable of a word that can be rhymed (e.g., /at/ in *cat* and *fat*)

rule of three

a principle that states that things grouped or presented in threes create a more effective, satisfying, and memorable pattern

Examples include the Three Little Pigs, the Three Musketeers, and Aristotle's three types of speeches.

S

sarcasm

a bitter form of irony, intended to taunt or hurt

scheme

a figure of speech that concerns word order, syntax, letters, and sounds, as opposed to the meaning of words

Some types of schemes include parallelism/parallel structure, antithesis, inverted word order, repetition of words, and reversed structures.

script

1. a written version of the speech and actions of performers, as in a play or film
2. handwriting

secondary source

a source that is a step removed from the original accounts of an event or experience

sensory detail

a detail in writing that describes what is seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched

sensory language

words an author uses to help the reader experience the sense elements of the story

Sensory language is language that appeals to one or more of the five senses: sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste.

setting

the time and place in which a narrative occurs

Elements of setting may include the physical, psychological, cultural, or historical background against which the story takes place.

sight word

a word that is recognized immediately

Note: Sometimes sight words are thought to be only words that are irregular or high-frequency (e.g., on the Dolch and Fry lists). However, any word that is recognized automatically is a sight word. These words may be phonetically regular or irregular.

simile

a comparison of two things that are essentially different, usually using the words *like* or *as* (e.g., *O my love is like a red, red rose* from Robert Burns’s “A Red, Red Rose”)

simple sentence

a sentence with one clause (e.g., *the chicken crossed the road*)

slant rhyme

an imperfect rhyme that usually has the same end consonant sound but not the same vowel sound; also called a half rhyme (e.g., *found* and *kind*, *grime* and *game*, *ill* and *shell*, *dropped* and *wept*)

soliloquy

a dramatic convention in which a speech is given by a character while, or as if, alone; literally, “talking to oneself”

standard format for citations

a uniform way in which citations are recorded and listed

A standard format for citation depends on the stylebook the writer uses (e.g., APA, MLA, Turabian, or Chicago).

stated assumption

when an author clearly states the premise in a persuasive work

stereotyping

a rhetorical fallacy in which one classifies a person or group according to a common aspect that is oversimplified, rigidly applied, and often uncomplimentary

story line

the plot of a story or drama

structural element

the basic form of a poem, including its visual presentation (e.g., line, stanza, or verse)

structural pattern

the pattern that emerges when the various literary parts (i.e., character, setting, theme, and plot) come together to form the whole

structure of fiction

how a literary work is constructed or put together

style

the way something is written, in contrast to its content (e.g., Hemingway’s writing style is terse, blunt, and conversational)

stylistic device

any technique used by an author to express meaning, ideas, or feelings in a written work (e.g., metaphor, simile, alliteration, etc.)

The use of these techniques is related to the tone of the piece and the style of the author.

subjective point of view

See “point of view.”

subjunctive mood

a verb mood expressing a wish or command, or a hypothetical or anticipated condition (e.g., *if I were finished eating, I would go to the party*)

subordinate clause

a clause containing a subject and a verb that modifies a main or independent clause but cannot stand alone; also called a dependent clause (e.g., *until he goes* in *I will wait until he goes*)

subordinating conjunction

a conjunction that introduces a dependent clause and connects it to an independent clause (e.g., *because, when, unless*)

subtle inference

See “inference.”

summarize

to reduce large sections of text to their essential points and main ideas

Note: It is still important to attribute summarized ideas to the original source.

superlative

an adjective indicating the greatest (or least) degree of something

A superlative is usually formed using *-est* (e.g., *the best and the brightest*).

suspense

the sustained interest created by the buildup of events and delayed resolution of the plot's conflict

sustained evidence

textual evidence or argumentation in support of the thesis that is unflawed and remains strong throughout the paper

symbolism

the use of symbols to represent abstract ideas in concrete ways

syntax

the arrangement and sequence of words in sentences, clauses, and phrases

synthesize

to combine elements and parts to form a coherent whole

T

technical vocabulary

specialized vocabulary that is used within a particular context and usually by a limited group of people who know and understand the specialized terms

testimonial

a statement in support of a particular truth, fact, or claim; a recommendation

Testimonials are often used in advertising.

textual parody

See “parody.”

thematic link

a logical connection made between or among texts that share similar themes

theme

the central or universal idea of a piece of fiction or the main idea of a nonfiction essay

A **universal theme** transcends social and cultural boundaries and speaks to a common human experience. A theme may be explicit or implicit. In a work with an **explicit theme**, the author overtly states the theme somewhere within the work. **Implicit theme** refers to the author's ability to construct a piece in such a way that through inference the reader understands the theme.

thesis

1. a statement or premise supported by arguments
2. the subject or theme of a speech or composition

third-person limited

See “point of view.”

third-person omniscient

See “point of view.”

tone

the author’s particular attitude, either stated or implied in the writing

traditional literature

stories that were originally oral and later became written text

tragic flaw

a flaw or defect in a tragedy’s hero or heroine that eventually causes his or her downfall

transitional words and phrases

words or phrases that help to sustain a thought or idea through the writing

They link sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas.

trope

nonliteral or figurative language

The following literary devices are examples of tropes: metaphor, simile, analogy, hyperbole, understatement, rhetorical question, and irony.

U

understatement

a rhetorical technique, often incorporating irony or humor, in which something is represented as less than it actually is

universal theme

See “theme.”

unreliable source

See “reliable source.”

V

valid source

a correct and truthful source

Some questions useful for evaluating the validity of a source include the following:

- Does the author present facts with supporting evidence?
- Does the information in this source match information in other sources?

visual parody

See “parody.”

voice

articulation or expression in coherent form, either verbally or in a piece of writing

vowel digraph or vowel pair

two vowels that together represent one phoneme or sound (e.g., *ea*, *ai*, *oa*)

W

word boundary

the boundary or division between two words

word choice

the author’s thoughtful use of precise vocabulary to fully convey meaning to the reader

word segmentation

the division of words into syllables or segments; also called syllabication

