**AP List of Rhetorical Devices**

**Anaphora** – When several sentences in a row begin with the same beginning phrase for emphasis and repetition

**Allusion** - a brief reference to a person, place, event, or passage in a work of literature or the *Bible* assumed to be sufficiently well known to be recognized by the reader

**Anecdote** - a short, entertaining account of some happening, frequently personal or

biographical

**Appeal to authority (ETHOS)** - citation of information from people recognized for their special knowledge of a subject for the purpose of strengthening a speaker’s or writer’s argument, references to one’s moral or ethical character

**Appeal to emotion (PATHOS)** -appeals to the audience’s emotions, persuading them to act because of guilt, sadness, fear, pride, patriotism or other emotions

**Appeal to logic (LOGOS) -** arguing according to the principles of correct reasoning; showing what can be expected because of what has gone before, using facts/data/statistics

**Conceit (or extended metaphor) -** an extended metaphor which governs an entire passage or poem

**Contrast** - to compare as to point out striking differences

**Emotional words** - use of words likely to engage strong emotions in the audience

**Epistrophe-** the repetition at the end of every phrase or sentence (the opposite of anaphora) ex: “We will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together . . .”

**Hyperbole** - an extravagant exaggeration of fact, can be used for serious or comic effect

**Imagery** - lively descriptions which impress the images of things upon the mind: figures of speech using the five senses

**Irony** - a method of humorous or sarcastic expression in which the intended meaning of the words is the opposite of their usual meaning (see sarcasm)

**Polysyndeton:** using excessive conjunctions to lengthen items in a list

**Repetition** - repeating words or phrases for emphasis when speaking or writing

**Rhetorical question** - to ask a question of an audience to engage them without having a response from the audience

**Sarcasm** - a taunting, sneering, cutting, or caustic remark (see irony)

**Slang** – casual or dialectal language used for casual conversation; often used by a speaker to relate to the audience or a specific group