

VOCABULARY

OPENING NOTE

Originally there was going to be this huge list of rhetorical vocabulary to learn over the summer since we only have a semester for a traditionally year-long course. But that seemed onerous. Many of you have heard that AP Lang and US History will be combined and last all year. That is no longer a sure thing. I'm told it is a huge scheduling challenge to balance those two classes with honors chemistry, pre-calculus, and the various bands and choirs so many of you are in. With only 4 periods to work with, it seems it may be impossible. Administration says there is a chance the two AP classes will still be year-long, but in reality they will likely be one semester.

WHAT TO DO

Look up each of the following terms and provide a definition and an example *that you find on your own* —not ones provided by a website. Look to the columns you're reading and to Huckleberry Finn for examples, though other sources are acceptable as well. Here are a few resources you may find helpful. The first two are for literary terms that we'll use primarily for analyzing texts and the third site is for rhetorical terms. Incidentally, the third site is from the English department of the current chief reader (the person in charge of this particular AP test).

http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/lit_terms/

http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/literature/bedlit/glossary_a.htm

<http://humanities.byu.edu/rhetoric/silva.htm>

WORDS

Some of these may be new, but most will hopefully be familiar to you.

- Diction
- Imagery
- Tone
- Figurative Language
- Syntax
- Connotation
- Point of View
- Allusion
- Anecdote
- Hyperbole
- Colloquialism
- Irony (*Ironic* by Alanis Morissette is, ironically, full of tragic, not ironic examples)
- Metaphor
- Satire
- Understatement

That should be more than enough. If you know anything about rhetoric, you know we are leaving many, many words out. Don't worry. These are sufficient to get us started analyzing text. If you would like to get more of a handle on rhetoric, there is enough on the *Silva Rhetoricae* site above to keep you busy all summer long. Please don't feel the need to wallow in that site though. It takes a more classical approach than we will take and the audience is most definitely college students. What I've given you is sufficient to prepare you for the beginning of class and, as noted in the main assignment, reading *Amusing Ourselves to Death* by Neil Postman would be a better use of your time if your other, more fun activities allow for it and you are feeling particularly keen.