**Accelerating Your Academic Language**

**SOAPS and DIDLS**

**Review of Rhetorical Strategies**

**Directions: The goal is to increase your use of the vocabulary that can be used when discussing rhetorical strategies and stylistic devices in poetry, fiction and nonfiction.**

**Part 1: Review rhetorical terminology to the specific areas.**

**Part 2: On going application with in class readings**

**SOAPS**—These are key to setting up your thesis statement and should always be addressed in your introduction.

**Subject—What is the main argument?**

Rhetorical Strategies:

Thesis of the author, key premise, hypothesis, organization of the piece

Types of texts: religious, philosophical, political, informational, historical, biographical or autobiographical, persuasive

**Occasion-When and Where and in what situation?**

Rhetorical Strategies: place, context, or current situation that created the reason for the author to write

**Audience—Who is the intended audience?**

Rhetorical Strategies: message, expectation on the reader/listener

**Purpose—Why are they writing it?**

Rhetorical Strategies: reason behind the text, to persuade, to inform; logos, pathos, ethos

**Speaker—Why is who they are important to the piece? What is their attitude and what is their tone? Difference between the author and the speaker?**

Rhetorical Strategies:

Manner of tone./attitude (voice): objective, subjective, confrontational, placating

Words for tone/attitude: sharp, dramatic, proud, restrained, condescending, sympathetic, nostaligic, didactic, candid, poignant,

# **DIDLS—These are key to setting up your paragraphs for an argument analysis paper or close reading of a passage or a poem**

# **Diction: What type of language is being used?**

Words to describe language: jargon, vulgar, connotative, denotative, emotional, detached, pedantic, pretentious, picturesque, moralistic, poetic, precise, etc.

Rhetorical Strategies:

Length of words monosyllabic, polysyllabic

Choice of words: colloquial (slang) , informal (conversational) , formal (literary), or old-fashioned

Meaning of words: Denotative (exact meaning) or connotative (suggested meaning)

Type of words: Concrete (specific) or abstract (general)

Sound of the words: euphonious (pleasant) or cacophonous (harsh sounding)

**Imagery: What kind of pictures are created?**

Rhetorical Strategies:

Simile, metaphor, descriptive language, analogies (explicit comparison), allegory (set of abstract ideas personified through characters and events)

**Details (What are the facts?)**

Rhetorical Strategies: Example, Definition, Division and Classification, Description

**Language: What literary devices are being used?**

Rhetorical Strategies:

Figurative Language: simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche (part used to represent the whole or whole to represent a part—All hands on deck, Canada played the U.S. in the hockey final), metonymy (name of one thing is applied to another thing which is closely associated—I love Shakespeare!)

Literary Devices:

Sound: alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia

Plays with sentences: Hyperbole (exaggeration), understatement (meoiosis), paradox (contradiction), oxymoron, pun, irony, sarcasm, double entendres, euphemism (understatement to avoid offense)

References to others: Apostrophe (speaking to the dead or the absent), allusion (reference to mythological, literary, historical or biblical), epithets (single word adjective linked to describe a specific quality)

# **Syntax (Sentence Structure)—What are the types of sentences?**

Rhetorical Strategies:

Purpose of sentences: declarative, imperative, interrogative, exclamatory

Types of sentences: simple, compound, complex, compound-complex, subordination

Organization of the sentence: loose (makes sense before the ending), periodic (makes sense only at the end), balanced (phrases/clauses in terms of similar words, similar structure, meaning, and/or length), parallel structure/parallelism (structure similarities between sentences or parts of sentences—repeated structure), ellipsis (omission of word or phrase)

Organization of ideas in the sentence:

juxtaposition (unassociated ideas, words and phrases are placed next to one another to surprise or disrupt your association)

antithesis (direct contrast of structurally parallel word grouping for the purpose of contrast)

repetition (repetition of words, sounds and ideas for rhythm and emphasis)

apposition (adding emphasis by placing a word or phrase immediately afterword)

rhetorical questions (expects no answer but draws attention to a point)

parenthesis (interruption to launch a new idea—not necessarily in brackets or parenthesis)