

## **AP Strategies and Devices to Consider as You Annotate ☺**

**These are purposeful choices the author makes to strengthen the argument**

### **I. MODES OF DISCOURSE**

1. **Narration –Tells a story (Mode of Discourse).** Recounts an event. There is a beginning, a middle, and an end. There's a point to it- a reason for recounting the event becomes clear to the reader.
2. **Description (Mode of Discourse)- Writing that appeals to the senses.** It can be objective, which is scientific or clinical, or it can be impressionistic, which tries to involve the reader's emotions or feelings. Description can be direct or indirect, and the organization can be as follows:
  1. Chronological
  2. Spatial
  3. Emphasizing the most important detail
  4. Emphasizing the most noticeable detail
3. **Example/Exemplification** – Example is a specific event, person, or detail of an idea cited and or developed to support or illustrate a thesis or topic. Provide examples or cases in point. Are there examples - facts, statistics, cases in point, personal experiences, interview quotations - that you could add to help you achieve the purpose of your essay? Seneca once said, "Every guilty person is his own hangman." The truth of this observation can be illustrated by the lives of countless villains. Once such is Macbeth, from Shakespeare's tragedy of the same name. At the instigation of his wife, Macbeth kills the king of Scotland and usurps his throne - an act of treachery for which Macbeth and his wife suffer torments of guilt.
4. **Definition** - Identifies the class to which a specific term belongs and those characteristics which make it different from all the other items in that class.
5. **Comparison and Contrast** - Discuss similarities and differences. These essays may be organized in several ways including:
  1. **subject by subject**-Subject A is discussed in its entirety and is followed by a full discussion of subject B.
  2. **point by point**-A major point related to A is examined and is immediately followed with a corresponding point in subject B.
  3. **Combination**-In a longer essay, the writer may employ both strategies.
6. **Division and Classification** –Classification separates items into major categories and details the characteristics of each group and why each member of that group is placed within the category. Divide a whole into parts or sort related items into categories.
7. **Causal Analysis (Cause/Effect)** - Analyze why something happens and describe the consequences of a string of events. It establishes a relationship: B is the result of A. It can emphasize the causes, the effects, or both. It can detail a single cause with many effects, or several causes with a single effect, or any combination. Depending on his or her purpose, the writer can choose to present the most important idea in the beginning, middle, or the end. In some cases, the successful writer of a cause and effect essay anticipates and addresses reader objections and/or questions.
8. **Argumentation (Mode of Discourse)**-Convince others through reasoning. Are you trying to explain aspects of a particular subject, and are you trying to advocate a specific opinion on this subject or issue in your essay? Type of writing in which the author argues a position on a particular issue. Takes a position on an issue and defends it.

9. **Process Analysis**-Analyzes a process. Explain how to do something or how something happens. Process can have one of two purposes. It can either give instructions or inform the reader about how something is done. It is important to understand that a clear process presentation must be in chronological order.

## II. Rhetorical Strategies (just a sample list – there are more...feel free to find ones not on this list)

- Allusion – a reference to something well-known for purposes of illustration
- Anecdote – *telling of a story to illustrate*
- Analogy - compares two different things that have some similar characteristics - *He is flaky as a snowstorm.*
- Anaphora - repeats a word or phrase in successive phrases - "*If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh?*" (Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare)
- Antithesis - makes a connection between two things - "*That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.*" (Neil Armstrong)
- Diction – purposeful word choice that creates a particular tone
- Epithet - using an adjective or adjective phrase to describe - *mesmerizing eyes*
- Epigram - use of a quote or other short information at the beginning of the chapter – establishing the claim of the chapter
- Epizeuxis - repeats one word for emphasis - *The amusement park was fun, fun, fun.*
- Hyperbole - an exaggeration - *I have done this a thousand times.*
- Juxtaposition- purposeful comparison of two things, often to show their contrast
- Metaphor - compares two things by stating one is the other - *The eyes are the windows of the soul.*
- Metonymy - a metaphor where something being compared is referred to by something closely associated with it - *The knights are loyal to the crown.*
- Parallelism - uses words or phrases with a similar structure - *I went to the store, parked the car and bought a pizza.*
- Rhetorical Questioning- asking the reader questions to cause him or her to reflect on the author's point
- Simile - compares one object to another - *He smokes like a chimney.*
- Symbolism- a representation
- Tonal Shift – when an author moves purposefully from one tone to another
- Understatement - makes an idea less important than it really is - *The hurricane disrupted traffic.*