

CCU English Composition  
TERMS

1. ad hominem/"to or against the man" (two words)
2. allegory/character and/or story elements symbolically represent an abstraction in addition to the literal meaning
3. allusion/direct or indirect reference to something that is presumably commonly known
4. alliteration/"she sells sea shells by the sea shore"
5. ambiguity/multiple meanings of a word, phrase, sentence, or passage
6. analogy/similarity or comparison between two different things or the relationship between them
7. antecedent/word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun
8. antithesis/"Too black for heaven, and yet too white for hell" (Dryden)
9. aphorism/terse statement of known authorship that expresses a general truth or moral principle
10. apostrophe/figure of speech that directly addresses an absent or imaginary person or personified abstraction
11. atmosphere/emotional mood established by setting and the author's choice of objects
12. caricature/synonymous with burlesque, parody, travesty, satire, lampoon
13. chiasmus/figure of speech based on inverted parallelism
14. colloquialism/give a work a conversational, familiar tone
15. conceit/extended metaphor or surprising analogy between seemingly dissimilar objects
16. connotation/implied, suggested meaning of a word
17. diction/word choices
18. didactic/"instructive"
19. euphemism/a more agreeable or less offensive substitute for generally unpleasant words or concepts
20. figurative language/writing that is not intended to carry literal meaning (two words)
21. figure of speech/examples include apostrophe, hyperbole, irony, oxymoron, understatement (three words)
22. genre/major category into which a literary work fits
23. homily/"sermon"
24. hyperbole/exaggeration or overstatement
25. imagery/sensory details used to describe, arouse emotion, or represent abstractions
26. infer/to draw reasonable conclusion from the information presented
27. invective/emotionally violent, verbal denunciation using strong, abusive language
28. irony/used to create poignancy or humor
29. juxtaposition/placing dissimilar items, descriptions, or ideas close together for comparison or contrast
30. loose sentence/type of sentence in which the main idea comes first (two words)
31. metonymy/the name of one object is substituted for that of another closely associated with it
32. mood/similar to tone and atmosphere
33. oxymoron/apparently contradictory terms that suggest a paradox
34. parody/closely imitates the style or content of another for comic effect or ridicule
35. pedantic/scholarly, academic, or bookish
36. syntax/phrases, clauses, and sentences
37. tone/describes the author's attitude toward his material, the audience, or both
38. understatement/includes litotes and meiosis