Language of Logical Reasoning

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|  | Definition | Retrieval cues |
| Analogous reasoning  | Argument or example based on similarity in function but difference in structure or origin | Analogy is an extended metaphor (comparison) |
| Anecdote | A short account of an incident or event of an interesting or amusing nature, often biographical | Anecdotal evidence  |
| Antecedent  | The word, phrase, or clause to which a pronoun refers |  |
| Antithesis | A figure of speech in which sharply contrasting ideas are juxtaposed in a balanced or parallel phrase or grammatical structure | Beauty and the beast are antithetic  |
| Circumlocution  | A roundabout or evasive expression | “beating around the bush” |
| Circumscribed | Limited, restricted  | “hands are tied” |
| Cogent (+)  | Convincing, believable |  |
| Colloquial  | The use of slang in writing, often to create local color and tor provide an informal tone | “chatty” |
| Concession  | Something, such as a point previously claimed in argument, that is later conceded | You **may** be right, **but** . . . **Even though** you have a valid point, I strongly believe . . .  |
| Convoluted (–)  | Difficult to comprehend, too complicated  | Byzantine art is too convoluted |
| Corroboration (substantiation) | Confirmation that some fact or statement is true through the use of documentary evidence | This the pith of your writing process.  |
| Counterargument | An argument offered in opposition to another argument |  |
| Deduction  | The process of moving from a general rule to a specific example | Sherlock Holmes is the master of deductive reasoning!  |
| Denotation  | The literal or dictionary meaning of a word  |  |
| Desultory (–)  | Occurring randomly or sporadically; random; aimless; divergent  |  |
| Digressive  | Rambling; diffuse (adj)  | “long-winded” “waffling” |
| Empathetic | Showing empathy or ready comprehension of others' states; empathic  | “I feel for you” |
| Emphatic  | Forceful and definite in expression or actionStrongly expressive  |  |
| Empirical | Relying on or derived from observation or experiment; experiential  |  |
| Epigraph  | The use of a quotation at the beginning of a work that hints at its theme | Hemingway began his *The Sun Also Rises* with “you are all a lost generation.”  |
| Episodic Anecdotal  | Divided into separate or tenuously related parts or sections; loosely connected | *Don Quixote* is an episodic novel  |
| Equivocal (–) | Characterized by a mixture of opposing elements and therefore questionable or uncertain | “iffy,” “yes and no,”“maybe maybe not” |
| Fallacious (–)  | Tending to mislead; deceptive  | A fallacy is a false statement.  |
| Feasible  | Capable of being accomplished or brought about; possibleViable; within reach  | The feast is very feasible. |
| Hypothetical | Based primarily on surmise rather than adequate evidence; theoretical; assumed |  |
| Incompatible | Unable to be both true at the same time, inconsistent  |  |
| Incongruous (–)  | Incoherent; incompatible  |  |
| Induction  | The process that moves from a given series of specifics to a generalization |  |
| Inference | The act of reasoning from factual knowledge or evidenceA conclusion one can draw from the presented details  | Inferential vs. Factual  |
| Oblique (–)  | Indirect or evasive; biased  | Cf) straightforward  |
| Pathos  | The aspects of a literary work that elicit pity from the audience An appeal to emotion that can be used as a means to persuade  | Evoking too much pity is pathetic  |
| Pedantic  | marked by a narrow focus on or display of learning especially its trivial aspects | Bookish  |
| Plausible (+)  | Apparently reasonable, valid, truthful |  |
| To play devil’s advocate  | To pretend to be against an idea in order to make people discuss it in more detail and think about it more carefully |  |
| Qualification | 1. A quality or accomplishment for a particular position or task**2. A condition that modifies or limits; restriction** | An unqualified success |
| Rebuttal | The speech act of refuting by offering a contrary contention or argument  | But, I would like to re**but . . .**  |
| Rhetoric (both + and –)  | An art or technique of using language effectively and persuasively in spoken or written form | Rhetorical skills (+)Empty rhetoric (—)  |
| Rhetorical question  | A question that does not expect an answerIt piques the reader’s curiosity and calls for consideration on the proposed idea | Got milk?  |
| Rogerian argument  | Introduction includes the contexts in which the opponent’s position may be valid; later, the author presents how the opponent's position would benefit if he were to adopt elements of the writer's position. | With all due respect, I would like to disagree . . .  |
| Syllogism  | The format of a formal argument that consists of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion.  |  |
| Synthesis  | Locating a number of sources and integrating them into the development and support of a writer’s claim |  |
| Tentative | 1. Under terms not final or fully worked out or agreed upon, conditional **2. Indicating a lack of confidence or certainty; hesitant** | A tentative swipe  |
| Thesis  | The main idea of a piece of writing  | Topic + writer’s opinion  |
| To belie | To give a false representation to; misrepresent, to contradict |  |
| To bolster | To support or reinforce; strengthen |  |
| To delineate | To mark, form, or show the outline or border ofTo describe with precision  |  |
| To endorse | To express approval of or give support to, especially by public statement; to promote  |  |
| To refute < to rebuff | To prove to be false or erroneous; overthrow by argument or proof | To repudiate; to discredit  |
| To undermine (–)  | To weaken by wearing away a base or foundationTo dig a mine or tunnel beneath |  |
| To underscore | To put emphasis on; stressTo underline  |  |
| To validate | To make valid; substantiate; confirm |  |
| Transition  | A word or phrase that links one idea to the next and carries the reader from sentence to sentence, paragraph to paragraph  | However,In addition,  |
| Unambiguous  | Having or exhibiting no ambiguity or uncertainty; clear  |  |
| Understatement | A statement that is restrained in ironic contrast to what might have been said; underplay  |  |
| Unwarranted (–)  | Having no justification; groundless; unjustified; undue  |  |
| Utilitarian | Exhibiting or stressing utility over other values; practical |  |