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 action  Strongly 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; possible  Viable; 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 evidence  A 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 answer  It 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 of  To 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 foundation  To dig a mine or tunnel beneath |  |
| To underscore | To put emphasis on; stress  To 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 |  |