Claims, Evidence, and the Rhetorical Situation

AP English Language and Composition · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
rhetorical situation /reˈtɒrɪkl ˌsɪtʃuːˈeɪʃn/	The **rhetorical situation** includes the writer, audience, purpose and context.
exigence /ˈeksɪdʒəns/	The **exigence** is the problem that made the writer speak.
purpose /ˈpɜːpəs/	Ask about the **purpose** of the text: what must I do?
audience /ˈɔːdɪəns/	Know your **audience** before you write.
context /ˈkɒntekst/	Use the **context**, the words around a word, to guess its meaning.
message /ˈmesɪdʒ/	The **message** is the main idea the writer wants to share.
claim /kleɪm/	A **claim** is a point the writer wants you to accept.
evidence /ˈevɪdəns/	Use the writer's examples as **evidence** for your answer.
reasoning	Your **reasoning** explains how the evidence supports your claim.
anecdote	An **anecdote** is a short personal story.
analogy	An **analogy** compares two things to explain an idea.
statistics /stəˈtɪstɪks/	**Statistics** give numbers as evidence.

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expert opinion	**Expert opinion** is evidence from someone who knows the topic well.
embedding	**Embedding** a quotation means fitting it into your own sentence.
paraphrased /ˈpærəfreɪzd/	The idea was **paraphrased**: written in the student's own words.
summarised	She **summarised** the article in three sentences.
commentary /ˈkɒməntri/	**Commentary** explains why your evidence matters.
synthesis essay	A **synthesis essay** uses several sources to support an argument.
rhetorical analysis	A **rhetorical analysis** explains how a writer persuades.
argument essay	An **argument essay** takes and defends a position.
rubric	The **rubric** shows how the essay is scored.
sophistication	**Sophistication** means writing with depth and awareness of complexity.

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