Qualifying Arguments, Syntax, and Conventions

AP English Language and Composition · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
qualification /ˌkwɒlɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/	“In some cases” adds a **qualification** to the claim. “In some cases”
sentence structure	Vary your **sentence structure** to keep readers interested.
complexity /kəmˈpleksɪti/	A good essay shows the **complexity** of the issue.
oversimplification /ˌəʊvəˌsɪmplɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/	Saying “phones ruin lives” is an **oversimplification**. “phones ruin lives”
generalisation /ˌdʒenərəlaɪˈzeɪʃn/	“All teenagers are lazy” is a **generalisation**. “All teenagers are lazy”
discourse /ˈdɪskɔːs/	Public **discourse** is how people talk about an issue in public.
absolute	“Always” and “never” make an **absolute** claim. “Always” “never”
modifier /ˈmɒdɪfaɪə/	“Very” is a **modifier** that makes a word stronger. “Very”
scope /skəʊp/	The **scope** of the claim is only this small trial.
counter-example	One **counter-example** is enough to disprove “all birds fly”. “all birds fly”
independent clause /ˌɪndɪˈpendənt klɔːz/	Each **independent clause** has a subject and a verb.
subordination /ˌsʌbɔːdɪˈneɪʃn/	**Subordination** puts a less important idea in a “because” or “although” clause. “because” “although”

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coordination /kəʊˈɔːdɪneɪʃn/	**Coordination** joins equal ideas with “and” or “but”. “and” “but”
punctuation /ˌpʌŋktʃuːˈeɪʃn/	Commas and full stops are **punctuation**.
colon /ˈkəʊlən/	A **colon** can introduce an explanation after a complete sentence.
semicolon	A **semicolon** joins two closely linked sentences.
dash	A **dash** adds a sudden break or extra detail.
hyphen	A **hyphen** joins words, as in “well-known”. “well-known”
parentheses	Put extra information in **parentheses** (like this). ( )
italics	Use **italics** for book titles.
misplaced modifier	A **misplaced modifier** sits next to the wrong word and changes the meaning.
comma splice /ˈkɒmə splaɪs/	“It rained, we stayed home” is a **comma splice**: two sentences joined by a comma. “It rained, we stayed home”