

## AP Seminar Glossary

- alignment — Cohesion between the focus of an inquiry, the method of collecting information, the process of analysis of the information, and the conclusions made to increase understanding of that focus
- **argument** — A claim or thesis that conveys a perspective [position] developed through a line of reasoning and supported by evidence assumption — A belief regarded as true and often unstated
- author — One who creates a work (e.g., article; research study; foundational, literary, or philosophical text; speech, broadcast, or personal account; artistic work or performance) that conveys a perspective and can be examined
- bias — A personal opinion, belief, or value that may influence one's judgment, perspective, or claim
- **claim** — A statement made about an issue that asserts a perspective
- **commentary** — Discussion and analysis of evidence in relation to the claim which may identify patterns, describe trends, and/or explain relationships
- complex issue — Issue involving many facets or perspectives that must be understood in order to address it
- concession — Acknowledgment and acceptance of an opposing or different view
- conclusion — Understanding resulting from analysis of evidence
- **context** [is everything] — The intent, audience, purpose, bias, situatedness, and/or background (larger environment) of a source or reference
- conventions — The stylistic features of writing (e.g., grammar, usage, mechanics)
- counterargument — An opposing perspective, idea, or theory supported by evidence
- **credibility** — The degree to which a source is believable and trustworthy
- cross-curricular — Goes beyond the traditional boundary of a single content area or discipline
- deductive — A type of reasoning that constructs general propositions that are supported with evidence or cases
- evidence — Information (e.g., data, quotations, excerpts from texts) used as **proof to support** a claim or thesis
- fallacy — Evidence or reasoning that is false or in error
- implication — A possible future effect or result
- inductive — A type of reasoning that presents cases or evidence that lead to a logical conclusion
- inquiry — A process for seeking truth, information, or knowledge through a study, research investigation, or artistic endeavor/work interdisciplinary — Involving two or more areas of knowledge
- issue — Important problem for debate or discussion
- lens — Filter through which an issue or topic is considered or examined
- limitation — A boundary or point at which an argument or generalization is no longer valid
- **line of reasoning** — Arrangement of claims and evidence that leads to a conclusion [the line of reasoning should align to the purpose for the argument]

- literature — The foundational and current texts of a field or discipline of study
- **perspective** — A point of view conveyed through an argument
- plagiarism — Failure to acknowledge, attribute, and/or cite any ideas or evidence taken from another source
- **point of view** — A position or standpoint on a topic or issue
- primary source — An original source of information about a topic (e.g., study, artifact, data set, interview, article)
- qualification — A condition or exception
- qualitative — Having to do with text, narrative, or descriptions
- quantitative — Having to do with numbers, amounts, or quantities
- **rebuttal** — Contradicting an opposing perspective by providing alternate, more convincing evidence
- **refutation** — Disproving an opposing perspective by providing counterclaims or counterevidence
- reliability — The extent to which something can be trusted to be accurate
- **resolution** — The act of solving a problem or dispute
- scaffolding—The provision of temporary structured support for students to aid skill development
- secondary source — A commentary about one or more primary sources that provides additional insight, opinions, and/or interpretation about the primary source data, study, or artifacts
- sequencing — The organization of curriculum content into an order which progresses from simple to more complex
- **solution** — A means of answering a question or addressing a problem or issue
- text — Something composed (e.g., articles; research studies; foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; artistic works and performances) that conveys a perspective and can be examined
- **thesis**— A claim or position on an issue or topic put forward and supported by evidence
- tone — The way in which an author expresses an attitude about his or her topic or subject through rhetorical choices
- **validity** — The extent to which an argument or claim is logical [and aligned]
- vocal variety — Changing vocal characteristics (e.g., pitch, volume, speed) in order to emphasize ideas, convey emotion or opinion, or achieve other specific purposes