

## AP Seminar Glossary

**Argument**—a claim or thesis that conveys a perspective 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 judgement, 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**—acknowledgement and acceptance of an opposing or different view

**Conclusion**—understanding resulting from analysis of evidence

**Context**—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Limitation—a boundary or point at which an argument or generalization is no longer valid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

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

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

Solution—a means of answer 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

Vocal variety—changing vocal characteristics (e.g., pitch, volume, speed) in order to emphasize ideas, convey emotion or opinion, or achieve other specific purposes