

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 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 — 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limitation — A boundary or point at which an argument or generalization is no longer valid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

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

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