

English 10

Composition Terms

Audience

The audience is the persons reached by a book, radio or television broadcast, etc.; public.

Example. The audience for the book *Charlotte's Web* is that of elementary school-aged children approximately eight- ten years of age.

Denotation

Denotation is the exact dictionary meaning of a word, without emotion, attitude, and color.

Example. "That is my dog." (literally, a canine)

Connotation

Connotation is the emotional association with a word.

Example "You are a dog." (evokes the sense of ugliness or aggressiveness)

Style

Writing or speaking style is the manner in which one addresses a matter. A style reveals the writer's personality or voice. It is the result of the choices the writer makes in arranging sentences, choosing words, and using language figuratively.

Examples.

1. All of e.e. cummings' works of poetry employ lower case letters and often lack in basic punctuation. This is a stylistic choice. See below for an example involving an excerpt from "i carry your heart with me."
"i carry your heart with me(i carry it in
my heart)i am never without it(anywhere
i go you go,my dear; and whatever is done
by only me is your doing,my darling)"
2. In the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*, author J.D. Salinger narrates the novel through the voice of Holden Caulfield, and modifies his style to reflect the character:
"Anyway, I'm sort of glad they've got the atomic bomb invented. If there's ever another war, I'm going to sit right the hell on top of it. I'll volunteer for it, I swear to God I will. "Chapter 18
3. The non-fiction writer Annie Dillard's use of style:
"It is ironic that the one thing that all religions recognize as separating us from our creator -- our very self-consciousness -- is also the one thing that divides us from our fellow creatures. It was a bitter birthday present from evolution."

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Colloquial

Refers to a type of informal diction that reflects casual, conversational language and often includes slang expressions.

Example. What's up? I'm gonna call you tomorrow. LOL.

Slang

Slang is a very informal usage in vocabulary and idiom that is characteristically more metaphorical, playful, elliptical, vivid, and ephemeral than ordinary language. It is also speech and writing characterized by the use of vulgar and socially taboo vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.

Example. Let's hit the road. He really went to town on that issue.

Jargon

Jargon is the language, especially the vocabulary, peculiar to a particular trade, profession, or group.

Example. Every day terminology: heart attacks and skin cancer.
Medical jargon: myocardial infarctions and malignant melanomas.

Propaganda

Propaganda is a form of communication that is aimed at influencing the attitude of a community toward some cause or position. As opposed to impartially providing information, propaganda in its most basic sense, presents information primarily to influence an audience. Propaganda often presents facts selectively (thus possibly lying by omission) to encourage a particular synthesis, or uses loaded messages to produce an emotional rather than rational response to the information presented.

Example. Signs encouraging voters to participate in a census prior to a major election.

The above definitions constitute the terms related to composition that are examinable in English 10.

These definitions were gathered from public domain content at wikipedia.org, dictionary.com, for students in the Saint Thomas Aquinas High School English Department.

Composition refers to the skill or art of creating written works or pieces of literature. While this can be in the form of poetry, drama, essays or prose, the terms on this list would apply mostly to students' own writing.

English 10 Composition Terms

Compare

Contrast

Description

Exposition; Expository

Genre

Narrative

Persuasion; persuasive

Aside

Bias

Cliché

Irony

Sarcasm

Satire

Understatement

The above list constitutes the terms related to poetry that are have been covered in high school English and are included in **both** the list of examinable terms for the English 10 Provincial Exam.