

## A Selection of AP Acronyms & Definitions

### **SIFT METHOD** (To be used for literary analysis)

**Symbol:** Examine the title and text for symbolism.

**Images:** Identify images and sensory details.

**Figures of Speech:** Analyze figurative language and other devices.

**Tone and Theme:** Discuss how all devices reveal tone and theme.

### **LEAD** (To be used to analyze diction)

Low or informal diction (dialect, slang, jargon)

Elevated language or formal diction

Abstract and concrete diction

Denotation and connotation

### **DIDLS** (To be used to analyze tone)

**Diction** – the connotation of the word choice

**Images** – vivid appeals to understanding through the senses

**Details** – facts that are included or those that are omitted

**Language** – the overall use of language, such as formal, clinical, jargon

**Sentence Structure** – how structure affects the reader's attitude

### **TP-CASTT** (To be used to analyze poetry)

**Title** – Ponder the title before reading the poem.

**Paraphrase** – Translate the poem into your own words.

**Connotation** – Contemplate the poem for meaning beyond the literal.

**Attitude** – Observe both the speaker's and the poet's attitude (tone).

**Shifts** – Note shifts in speakers and attitudes.

**Title** – Examine the title again, this time on an interpretative level.

**Theme** – Determine what the poet is saying.

**TWIST** (To be used when the student is trying to determine what might be used to create a thesis when analyzing prose or poetry)

Tone

Word Choice

Imagery and Detail

Style

Theme

### Notes

**Diction** – word choice

**Syntax** – sentence structure

**Tone** – the author's attitude toward the subject (as opposed to mood which is the feeling the reader may have when reading a piece)