Rhetorical Strategies and Terminology

Allusion: referring to cultural or historical events or people indirectly for evocative purpose.

Analogy: extending a comparison for deeper insight

Call to Action: summation of a persuasive argument, directing the reader to adopt or continue an attitude or course of action

Claim: argumentative statement that requires support and substantiation

Counter-examples: presenting compelling evidence from the opposing viewpoint

Deductive Reasoning: drawing a specific conclusion from the comparison of generally-accepted principles

Diction (Denotation/Connotation): the importance of a single word on the argument

Explication: restating the source material to provide additional insight into meaning

Figurative Language (metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, etc.): using comparisons to force the reader to interpret the subject in a new way

Hook & Clincher: intriguing opening and closing of an essay or paragraph

Inductive Reasoning: drawing a generalized conclusion about a subject based on specific instances

Juxtaposition: placing opposing ideas together for contrast and insight

Mood: how the audience feels, dominant impression

Negation: proving something is correct by refuting all opposition

Refutation: pointing out the flaws in the counter-examples

Repetition: using the same phrasing repeatedly for emphasis and persuasion

SOAPSTone: (Speaker-Occasion-Audience-Purpose-Subject-Tone): a way to approach a text by considering all of the above elements

Syntax: the order of the words in a sentence, importance of or impact of sentence structure on the argument

Tone: how the author feels, conveyed through diction and syntax