ENG 4U **Essay Unit: List of Terms**

**LITERARY DEVICES:**

**Alliteration** – repeating the initial consonant of a group of words for aural effect and memorability

**Allusion** – reference to a well-known source or event

**Anecdote** – a story used for effect, sometimes as an analogy or as an introduction to a topic

**Assonance** – repeating vowel sounds for aural effect and memorability

**Cliché** – an overused word, or grouping of words, with the effect that potential impact is diminished

**Colloquialism/Slang** – informal language

**Diction** – put simply, the choice of words to create a specific effect

**Extended Metaphor** – a metaphor which is introduced and then developed throughout all or part of a literary work

**Hyperbole** – overstatement which draws emphasis

**Idiom** – language or dialect peculiar to a particular people, region, or country

**Interjection** – usually an exclamation used to express an emotion

**Jargon** – language specific to a particular occupation, setting or institution

**Juxtaposition** – two contrasting elements are placed close to each other to provoke comparison and emphasis

**Mood** – the overall feeling created

**Onomatopoeia** – the word used sounds like the thing or action being described

**Personification** – giving human qualities to non-human or inanimate things

**Rhetorical Question** – asked for effect, but not necessarily needing to be answered

**Rhythm** – the ebb and flow created by sentence variety, or within a sentence itself

**Stream of Consciousness** – an attempt to replicate (unspoken) thought patterns, rather than ordered verbal communication of ideas

**Tone** – encompasses the author’s attitude toward the subject matter; may be formal or informal, playful, solemn, elegiac, satirical, ironic, condescending, etc.

**Understatement** – as above, but deliberately downplaying for effect

**RHETORICAL DEVICES:**

**Active Voice** – the subject is the doer of the action

**Comma Splice** – complete clauses joined incorrectly with a comma

**Connotation** – the many emotional and cultural associations attached to a word

**Denotation** – the dictionary definition of a word

**Interrupted Movement** – a break in the continuity of a sentence (usually visible)

**Listing** – used to emphasize or order points

**Parallel Structure** – a balance within one or more sentences of similar phrases or clauses that have the same grammatical structure

**Passive Voice** – the subject is the receiver of the action

**Personal Pronouns:**

The use of personal pronouns can help to draw the reader closer, or push him/her away. Personal pronouns are rarely used in formal writing, but can be used very effectively in personal pieces. Personal pronouns should be used consciously and their effect should always be considered carefully.

**Pronouns to address the audience:**

This usually involves the use of “you” and to address a group of people. This can have the effect of drawing the audience closer or emphasizing differences, depending on the context and tone.

**Pronouns to include the audience:**

These pronouns group the author and audience together by the use of “us” and “we”. These draw the audience nearer and beg a sympathetic response.

**Pronouns to exclude the audience:**

The use of “they” emphasizes the distance you wish to place between your point of view and your detractors’.

**Run-on Sentence** – a grammatically incorrect joining of sentences (complete clauses) to create an effect

**Sentence Fragment** – an incomplete sentence (clause) used for effect

**Syntax** – the arrangement of words in a sentence to create emphasis or a specific effect

**Transition** – the movement from one subject focus to another; may occur between paragraphs, or sections, or sentence