**English Language Vocabulary List ­Study Guide**

BOLD words will appear on the test. ­Italicized terms WILL NOT APPEAR on the test, but you should still know them.

**Standards TestedELAGSE9-10L5**: Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text. b. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

**Test Dates: 11/13/2015 A Day 11/16/2015 B Day**

**Abstract Language ­ Language describing ideas and qualities rather than observable or specific things, people, or places.** The observable or "physical" is usually described in concrete language.

*Active Voice* ­ The subject of the sentence performs the action. This is a more direct and preferred style of writing in most cases, but not all. (example: The boy grabbed his books and went to school).See also, Passive Voice

*Ad hominem* ­ Latin for "against the man". When a writer personally attacks his or her opponents instead of their arguments. It is an argument that appeals to emotion rather than reason, feeling rather than intellect.

**Allegory** ​ ­ A story, fictional or nonfictional, in which characters, things, and events represent qualities or concepts. The interaction of these characters, things, and events is meant to reveal an abstraction or a truth. These characters, etc. may be symbolic of the ideas referred to. For example, an author may intend the characters to personify an abstraction like hope or freedom.

**Alliteration** ​­ The repetition of initial identical consonant sounds. Or, vowel sounds in successive words or syllables that repeat.

**Allusion**​ ­ An indirect reference to something (usually a literary text, although it can be other things commonly known such as plays, movies, t.v. shows) with which the readers is supposed to be familiar. Allusion is often used with humorous intent, to establish a connection between writer and reader, or to make a subtle point. e.g., “He met his Waterloo.”

*Ambiguity​* ­ An event or situation that may be interpreted in more than one way. Also, the manner of expression of such an event or situation may be ambiguous. Artful language may be ambiguous. Unintentional ambiguity is usually vagueness.

**Analogy**​-­ An analogy is a comparison to a directly parallel case. When a writer uses an analogy, he or she argues that a claim reasonable for one case is reasonable for the analogous case.

*Anaphora*​-Repetition of a word, phrase, or clause at the beginning of two or more sentences in a row. This is a deliberate form of repetition and helps make the writer's point more coherent.

**Antecedent**​- The word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun. The milestones exam will occasionally ask for the antecedent of a given pronoun in a long, complex sentence or in a group of sentences.(example: If I could command the wealth of all the world by lifting my finger, I would not pay such a price for it. A question might read: "What is the antecedent for "it"?)

**Appositive** -A word or group of words placed beside a noun or noun substitute to supplement its meaning. (Example: Bob, the lumber yard worker, spoke with Judy, an accountant from the city. archetype ­ a detail, image, or character type that occurs frequently in literature and myth and is thought to appeal in a universal way to the unconscious and to evoke a response.

**Assonance**​- ­Repetition of a vowel sound within two or more words in close proximity. In causal relationships, a writer asserts that one thing results from another. To show how one thing produces or brings about another is often relevant in establishing a logical argument.

**Connotation**​-­ Rather than the dictionary definition (denotation), the associations suggested by a word. Implied meaning rather than literal meaning. (Example: Policeman, Cop, Johnny Law, all denote the same literal meaning of Police Officer, but each has a different connotation or impression). **See Denotation**

**Denotation​-­**To signify or stand as a name for. The explicit meaning of a word. (example: Policeman means Officer of the Law. If you referred to the Policeman as a Cop, it still Denotes the same literal meaning, but the word "cop" has a different Connotation**). See also Connotation**

**Diction​-** Word choice, particularly as an element of style. Different types and arrangements of words have significant effects on meaning. An essay written in academic diction would be much less colorful, but perhaps more precise than street slang. You should be able to describe an author's diction. You SHOULDN'T write in your thesis, "The author uses diction...". This is essentially saying, "The author chooses words to write." Instead, describe the type of diction (for example, formal or informal, ornate or plain).

**Discourse-** ​­Spoken or written language including literary works. The four modes of discourse are description, narration, exposition and argumentation.

**Epithet** ­- a term used to point out a characteristic of a person. Homeric epithets are often compound adjectives ("swift footed Achilles") that become an almost formulaic part of a name. Epithets can be abusive or offensive but are not so by definition. For example, athletes may be proud of their given epithets ("The Rocket").

**Euphemism** -A more agreeable or less offensive substitute for generally unpleasant words or concepts. Sometimes they are used for political correctness ("physically challenged", instead of "crippled"). Sometimes they are used to exaggerate correctness to add humor (a person who is "vertically challenged" is often referred to as being "short")

**Figurative Language**​- A word or words that are inaccurate literally but call to mind sensation or evoke reactions. Metaphors, similes. "All the world's a stage." ....

**Hyperbole**​- Figurative language that exaggerates. It is often used in comedy, or to create irony. (Example: "We saw a gas station every five feet when the tank was full, but when we finally needed gas, there wasn't a station for a thousand miles."

**Personification**​- A type of figurative language which attributes human qualities to non­human subjects. (example: The ocean roared in anger at the ship and its crew.

**Simile**​ - A figurative usage that compares. It usually uses the words such as "like", "as", or "if". Comparing someone to a summer’s day is a simile.