Rhetorical Strategies/Literary Devices

- **motif**—recurring idea or element in a work of art
- **style**—distinguishable or distinctive manner
- **figurative language**—language employing figures of speech that cannot be taken only literally
- **metaphor/simile/hyperbole/personification/symbol**
- **contrast**—acknowledging differences
- **comparison**—acknowledging similarities
- **pacing**—a measured movement
- **allegory**—a narrative or description having a second meaning beneath the surface
- **cacophony**—discordant arrangement of sound
- **connotation**—word suggestion
- **denotation**—literal meaning
- **logos**—appeal to reason (logic)
- **ethos**—appeal to shared values or ethics
- **pathos**—appeal to emotion
- **epitaph**—ending each item with same word or words (Laura cultivates beauty, Wendy flaunts it, Janet disregards it, and I worship it.)
- **zeugma**—use of a single word to govern two or more words when applying them in different senses (She blew my nose and then she blew my mind; Bite into food and the reputation of your friends; He left his house and his wife.)
- **diction**—choice of words to convey a given meaning, impression, or clarity (concrete diction)
- **syntax**—sentence structure; the grammatical arrangement of words, phrases, clauses (parallel syntax)
- **synecdoche**—a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole (“wheels” for a car, “malt” for beer or ale, “brain” for a smart person)
- **metonymy**—use of something closely related for the thing actually meant (“life is spilling” instead of blood is spilling, “crown” instead of king, “tongue” for language
- **concession**
- **alliteration**
- **allusion**
- **ambiguity**
- **analogy**
- **antagonist**
- **antithesis**
- **apostrophe**
- **approaches**
- **archetype**
- **argumentation**
- **assonance**
- **asyndeton**
- **blank verse**
- **caesura**
- **carpe diem**
- **catharsis**
- **circumstantial reasoning**
- **conceit**
- **couplet**
- **dense text**
- **dialogue**
- **dream sequences**
- **elegiac**
- **elegy**
- **English sonnet**
enjambment
epithet
euphemism
exaggeration
extended metaphor
faulty premise
feminine rhyme
flashback
foot
foreshadowing
free verse
genre
hubris
humor
hyperbole
imagery
inversion
irony
Italian sonnet
juxtaposition
masculine rhyme
metaphor
meter
near rhyme/slant rhyme
onomatopoeia
oxymoron
paradox
paradox
parallelism
parody
personification
point of view
polysyndeton
protagonist
quarain
realism
regional dialect
repetition
rhyme
romanticism
sarcasm
selection of detail
setting
simile
soliloquy
stream of consciousness
subplot
syllogism
symbol
symbolism
terza rima
tone
tragedy
tragic flaw
understatement
voice
warrant

*Those terms especially suited to analyzing or understanding argument are underlined*