

**Suitable, accurately used vocabulary is the hallmark of clear expression and quality writing; therefore, we are providing you with the following list of words which we will use for vocabulary quizzes when we return in September.**

**Be able to define**

argument – to use evidence and reason to discover some version of the truth  
persuasion – to change a point of view or to move others from conviction to action  
thesis/assertion/claim - A confident and forceful statement of fact or belief that states the argument of the author in an essay  
or similar document  
context – the part of a written or spoken statement in which a word or passage at issue occurs; the circumstances in which a particular event occurs

**Be able to define, spell and create a specific example using the word correctly**

**Most commonly misused words:**

immediately  
its - possessive  
it's – contraction of "it is"  
unnecessary

**Rhetorical Devices**

allusion (n): an indirect reference to a person, event, statement or theme found in literature, the other arts, history, myths, religion or popular culture  
anaphora (n) – a rhetorical figure involving the exact repetition of words or phrases at the beginning of successive lines or sentences (a type of parallelism)  
diction (n) – choice or use of words in speech or writing  
imagery (n) – use of language to draw on or appeal to the kind of experiences gained through the five senses  
juxtaposition (n) – the act of placing two words, phrases or images side by side purposely for a greater connotation.  
oxymoron – two words used together which have, or seem to have, opposite meanings  
parallelism (n) – a rhetorical figure used in written and oral compositions to accentuate ideas or images by using grammatically similar constructions.  
syntax (n) – the grammatical arrangement of words in a sentence  
tone (n/adj) – the feeling or attitude which an author has for his subject, characters, and/or reader

**Vocabulary:**

**NOUNS:**

caricature – an exaggerated portrait or description

defamation – act of harming or ruining another’s reputation  
ideology – a system of ideas  
maceration - softening by soaking in a liquid  
pundit – a person who knows a great deal about a particular subject; an expert  
refutation – a statement that disproves a previously stated argument  
rhetoric – refers to the entire process of written communication. Rhetorical strategies and devices are those tools that enable a writer to present ideas to an audience effectively.

**VERBS:**

exalt – to glorify, to praise, to raise in rank  
inert – unable to move or to act; sluggish  
reform – to improve; to change for the better; rehabilitate; restore  
repress – to hold back; to prevent from being expressed

**ADJECTIVES:**

capricious – unpredictable; impulsive  
dogmatic – strongly opinionated in an unwarranted manner  
earnest - resulting from or showing sincere and intense conviction, intention, purpose or effort  
formidable – menacing, causing fear or awe  
innocuous (adj) - harmless  
orthodox – conventional, going by the book, sticking to established principles  
prudent – sensible; discerning; level-headed  
sanguine – confident; cheerful; optimistic; sturdiness  
superfluous – redundant; unnecessary; extra  
temporal – of or related to time; concerned with worldly affairs; short-lived  
vehement (adj) - zealous, ardent, impassioned; deeply felt; forcibly expressed

**IDIOMS:**

devil’s advocate — to argue a position, without necessarily believing that side of the argument; a person who expresses an opinion that disagrees with others so that there will be an interesting discussion about some issue  
red herring something deliberately misleading to divert your attention from the main subject; something irrelevant that confuses the issue.  
tied to someone’s apron strings –to be dependent on someone, such as one’s mother; to not be able to anything without asking your mother