

AP Language and Composition Multiple Choice Stems

1. The speaker's primary purpose in the passage is to
2. The phrase, " " functions primarily as
3. The attitude of the entire passage (or parts of the passage) is one of
4. The author uses this (a certain image) for the purpose of
5. The main rhetorical strategy of the ___ paragraph is for the purpose of
6. The word " " in context of line ___ is best interpreted to mean
7. By lines ___, it can be interpreted to mean
8. The reason for the shift in tone is due to
9. The phrase " " in line ___ refers to which of the following
10. The word/phrase " " in line ___ refers to which of the following
11. In relation to the passage as a whole, the statement in the first sentence presents
12. In lines ___, " " the speaker employs which of the following rhetorical strategies
13. Which of the following best summarizes the main topic of the passage
14. In the sentence beginning " " the speaker employs all of the following EXCEPT
15. The style of the passage as a whole is most accurately characterized as
16. The principle contrast employed by the author in the passage (paragraph) is between
17. The primary rhetorical function of lines --- " " is to
18. The speaker's reference to " " serves primarily to
19. The tone of the passage shifts from one of ___ to one of ___
20. The second sentence lines ___ is unified by metaphorical references pertaining to (frame of reference)
21. It can be inferred by the description of ___ that which of the following qualities are valued by the speaker
22. The antecedent for "it" in the clause " " is
23. The type of argument employed by the speaker is most similar to which of the following
24. The speaker describes ___ in an order best described as from the (loudest to softest)
25. The pattern of exposition exemplified in the passage is best described as
26. The point of view indicated in the phrase " " in line ___ is that of
27. The atmosphere established in the ___ sentence in line ___ is that of
28. The ___ sentence in line ___ remains coherent chiefly because of its use of
 - a. Parallel syntactic structure
 - b. Colloquial and idiomatic diction
 - c. A series of prepositional phrases
 - d. Periodic sentence structure
 - e. Retrospective point of view
29. The function of the three clauses introduced by "that" in lines ___ is to
30. The sentence " " in lines ___ contains which of the following
31. Which of the following best describes the function of the third paragraph in relation to the two paragraphs that precede it
32. The passage is an appeal for a
33. The primary rhetorical function of lines ___ is to
34. In the passage, the speaker makes all of the following assumptions about his/her readers EXCEPT
35. The diction in the passage is best described as
36. One prominent stylistic characteristic of the ___ paragraph is the use of

From the AP Language exam:

71. What is the author's attitude toward the subject?
72. What does the phrase _____ mean?
73. How would you characterize the style of the passage?
74. What is the main point of the passage?
75. Restate the phrase, _____.
76. Define the phrase, _____.
77. What is the speaker's purpose in writing this passage?
78. What is the speaker's purpose in lines _____.
79. Why does the writer use the allusion to _____?"
80. What is the tone of the passage?

81. How would you characterize the diction and style of the passage?
82. What is the speaker asserting in lines _____?
83. Describe the structure of the sentence in lines _____.
84. What contrast does the speaker develop in lines _____?
85. What effect is achieved by the speaker's using the phrases _____?
86. What dominant technique is the speaker using in lines _____?
87. In lines _____, _____ is a metaphorical way of saying _____.
88. What does the author achieve by juxtaposing _____ and _____?
89. What does the speaker accomplish in this passage?
90. What does the choice of words show about the speaker's beliefs?
91. Where is there a shift of tone in the passage?
92. The syntax in lines _____ serves to _____.
93. What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject?
94. What assumptions does the speaker make about the audience?
95. How does the author seek to interest us in the first paragraph?
96. What method does the author use to develop the argument?
97. Line _____ is parallel to what other line in the passage?
98. What can you infer about the author's attitudes toward the subject?
99. What is the antecedent for _____?
100. What type of argument is the author using in this passage?
101. What pattern of exposition is the author using in this passage?
102. What is the atmosphere established in lines _____?
103. Why is the sentence in lines _____ coherent, despite its length?
104. In line _____, the use of _____ instead of _____ accomplishes what?
105. What is the function of _____ in the passage?
106. What is the subject of the sentence in lines _____?
107. What does the author apparently believe about the subject?
108. What does the author believe we should do in response to this passage?
109. Why is the sentence in lines _____ remarkable?
110. What is the function of paragraph _____ of line _____?