GLOSSARY

READING AND WRITING

**adjective**: a word that modifies, or describes, a noun or a pronoun

**adverb**: a word that modifies, or describes, a verb, adjective, or adverb

**antecedent**: the word or phrase to which a pronoun refers

**antonym**: a word that is the opposite in meaning to a particular word

**audience**: the intended readers of a written work

**bias**: a personal tendency to judge a person, people, or ideas favorably or negatively

**clarity**: freedom from confusion and extraneous information

**coherence**: logical connection and adherence of ideas

**colloquial language**: conversational, or informal, language

**concise**: free from elaboration and unnecessary detail

**context clues**: the words or ideas that surround an unfamiliar word and provide clues to its meaning; clues may be in the form of examples, definitions, restatements, or explanations

**conventions**: established practices, methods, and rules

**credibility**: believability, trustworthiness

**deductive reasoning**: drawing a specific conclusion from a general premise

**demonstrative pronoun**: a pronoun used to indicate a particular person or thing

**explicit**: clearly or directly stated

**extraneous**: not essential or pertinent

**fallacy**: a false or mistaken idea

**figurative language**: language that has a meaning that is not literal or exact

**fluent**: smooth and flowing

**focus**: the point of concentration or emphasis
**graphic representation**: a table, chart, graph, or other non-text-based form of representing information

**implications**: ideas expressed indirectly

**implicit**: suggested without being directly stated

**infer**: to derive a conclusion by reasoning from evidence

**intent**: a clearly formulated aim

**main idea**: the central idea on which a paragraph or selection is based

**modifier**: a word that describes another word in the sentence (i.e., adjective, adverb)

**noun**: a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea

**objective**: dealing with facts without distortion by personal feelings or interpretations

**occasion**: the circumstance for which an action is taken

**organized**: structured as a coherent, unified whole

**paragraphing**: dividing writing into paragraphs

**phrase**: two or more words forming a distinct part of a sentence

**point of view**: a technical term in writing that refers to the person (i.e., first, second, third) in which a piece of writing is presented; or the opinion, viewpoint, or stand taken by a writer

**precise**: defined exactly

**preposition**: a word that shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and another word in the sentence (e.g., in, over, with, before, of)

**pronoun**: a word that takes the place of a noun (e.g., I, her, theirs, everyone)

**pronoun-antecedent agreement**: a correct match between the number (e.g., singular, plural) and gender of a pronoun and the antecedent to which it refers

**purpose**: a reason or goal

**qualifying language**: language, including adjectives and adverbs, used to explain or describe other words in the sentence (e.g., "They, the boys and girls, were excited about their vacation."); "The speaker was quite adamant about her point.")

**redundancy**: needless repetition or excessive use of words in an explanation or description

**relative pronoun**: a pronoun that introduces a clause
relevant: applicable to the matter at hand

run-on sentence: two or more sentences written and punctuated as one sentence

sentence fragment: an incomplete sentence punctuated as a complete sentence

structural analysis: the identification of prefixes, suffixes, and bases to help with word identification

subject-verb agreement: a correct match between the number (e.g., singular, plural) of the subject and verb in a sentence

supporting information: details, anecdotes, and other information provided to support a main idea

synonym: a word with the same meaning as or similar meaning to a particular word

syntax: the way in which words are arranged to form meaningful phrases, clauses, and sentences

theme: a subject or topic of discussion

thesis: a point set forth and defended in writing

transitions: words or phrases that serve to link ideas in a clear order

valid: both relevant and meaningful

verb: a word that expresses action or a state of being or becoming

verb tense: the form a verb takes to show time (e.g., past, present, future)

voice: individual distinction of form or expression