
APPENDIX B

Glossary of Rhetorical Terms

ANAPHORA: the repetition of an introductory word in successive phrases for emphasis; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 10.33: **nullus . . . sipo, nulla hama, nullum . . . instrumentum**, describing the absence of fire-fighting equipment in Nicomedia.

ASYNDETON: the omission of conjunctions; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 7.27: **Venit, legit, docetur, conducit**, where Pliny describes the actions of the philosopher Athenodorus upon his arrival at the haunted house.

CHIASMUS: the reversal of word order in two parallel phrases; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 6.16: **dies alibi, illic nox**, stressing the contrast between the atmosphere near the volcano with elsewhere.

ELLIPSIS: the omission of a word or words that are required for a clause to be understood; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 10.39: **vereor ne frustra**, where *fuerit* is omitted. The omission of a form of the verb “to be” is frequent in Pliny’s letters.

METONYMY: referring to an idea or a thing by using a word denoting something related to it; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 6.20: **tecta nutabant**, where **tecta**, literally “roofs,” is used to mean “buildings” or “houses.”

PARENTHESIS: a phrase that is not connected grammatically with the sentence but provides an explanation or information related to the sentence; an aside; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 10.4: **ut soles**, where he gently reminds Trajan of his customary generosity.

POLYPTOTON: the repetition of a word root in differing forms; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 1.6: **Ridebis, et licet rideas**, used by Pliny to emphasize the light-hearted nature of the story that follows.

PRAETERITIO: the mention of a topic made by claiming it is not being discussed; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 9.6: **mitto apud vulgus, quod vilius tunica**, while his focus is to criticize fellow senators for their racing enthusiasm, here he claims not to talk about the rabble, but then he does, clearly drawing a parallel between them and his peers.

SENTENTIA: a witty saying, quotation, or adage that sums up an argument; e.g., Pliny, *Ep.* 2.6: **quae cum sint turpissima discreta ac separata, turpius iunguntur**, with which he emphasizes the most disgraceful behavior of the host of the dinner he has so soundly criticized.