

## Key Direction Words

The following are key direction words used within the College Board essays:

**ANALYZE** - break down the topic into parts and give an in-depth account

**CLAIM** - state that something is true, *usually without* providing evidence

**CLASSIFY** - use classification in your answer (divide into groups or categories)

**COMPARE** - show the similarities between

**CONNECT** - associate or relate in some respect; think of as being linked or related

**CONTRAST** - show the differences between

**DEFINE** - state the meaning of a word or phrase

**DESCRIBE** - give the characteristics of something. *Unless the question says 'describe and explain', **don't be tempted to explain** (avoid writing 'because' in your answer!)*

**DISCUSS** - give the pros and cons on an issue, event, process, theory, or technique

**ENUMERATE** - list a number of reasons or attributes of something

**EVALUATE** - make a judgement or form an opinion or; supply reasons why something is as it is

**EXPLAIN** - support or qualify a given generalization with specific facts and ideas

**IDENTIFY/ STATE/ NAME** - point out and name in a brief sentence

**INTERPRET** - analyze critically or explain something not clear

**JUSTIFY** - provide evidence that supports your particular claim or conclusion

**MODEL** - use of flow charts, maps, mathematical representations (e.g., graphs, equations) and conceptual models such as an analogy); can also represent a concept, principle, law or theory that explains a wide body of evidence that has been gathered in a scientific investigation

**PREDICT** - give expected results of an upcoming event

**PROVE** or **SHOW** - demonstrate the truth of a statement; explain the reason for events turning out as they did, or speculate on what might be the effects of certain causes

**SUGGEST** - put forward an idea or reason

**SUMMARIZE** - give the main idea; state beginning, middle and end

**SUPPORT** - back up or prove a claim with data or facts

**USE** - apply knowledge or rules to put theory into practice

**POSE** - to propose something in words



\*\*\*\*\* **BRIEFLY** = be concise and straightforward!!!! \*\*\*\*\*