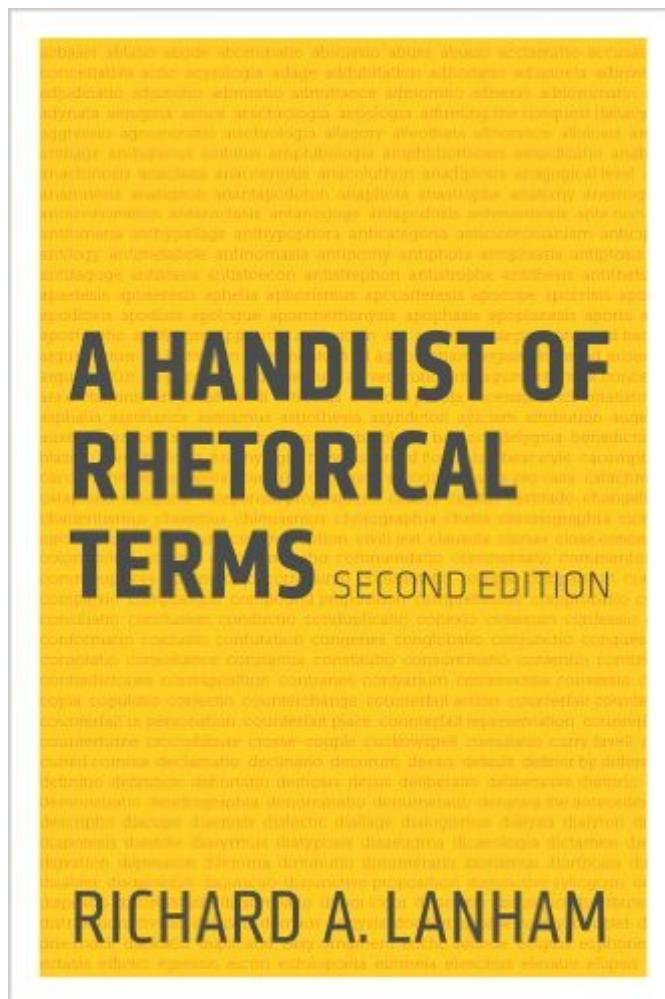


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# A Handlist Of Rhetorical Terms



## Synopsis

With a unique combination of alphabetical and descriptive lists, *A Handlist of Rhetorical Terms* provides in one convenient, accessible volume all the rhetorical terms—mostly Greek and Latin—that students of Western literature and rhetoric are likely to come across in their reading or will find useful in their writing. The Second Edition of this widely used work offers new features that will make it even more useful:<sup>\*</sup> A completely revised alphabetical listing that defines nearly 1,000 terms used by scholars of formal rhetoric from classical Greece to the present day\* A revised system of cross-references between terms\* Many new examples and new, extended entries for central terms\* A revised Terms-by-Type listing to identify unknown terms\* A new typographical design for easier access

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (20 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Over the Christmas holidays, I traveled back east to visit my parents. I carried Lanham's "A Handlist of Rhetorical Terms." One night my mom and I sat up talking about everything from Picasso to metaphysics and at some point we got to talking about Shakespeare. I tried to explain to her why Shakespeare is rhetorically revered, and at one point I climbed downstairs to the guest room and retrieved Lanham's book. She -- like most of us -- hears the word "rhetoric" and thinks of politicians and empty promises, or phrasing so complicated as to render simple fact obscure. I think the first word in "Handlist" we got a chuckle over was "chiasmus" and some of the examples like "It's not whether grapenuts are good enough for you, but whether you're good enough for grapenuts!" And the famous "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." The one that gave her the best

chuckle though was an editor's advice to a young writer "You're writing is both original and interesting; unfortunately the part that's original is not interesting and the part that is interesting is not original." The great thing about this book is that it gives name to a great many devices we already use in everyday speech, and for a writer this information is invaluable. The better facility a writer has with these devices the better he or she can express our endless human emotions. A good many of the examples give the Latin or Greek root word, but the definitions are in English. Many of them have example usage along with the definition. E.g., "Insultatio": derisive, ironical abuse of a person to his face. As Hamlet says to his mother: Look on this picture, and on this, The counterfeit presentment of two brothers.

Despite the 2012 date on the page, this appears to be simply a new printing, with a different cover, of the 1991 Second Edition of R. A. Lanham's frequently-useful, often engaging, "Handlist of Rhetorical Terms" (First Edition, 1970). (I assume that it has deleted the long-obsolete information about of a Mac version of the second edition, using Hypercard, which was available in the early 1990s.) There are almost a dozen reviews of a previous printing of the second edition, with a dark cover, which is also used for the Kindle edition of the book. The product page for it includes the "Look Inside" feature, missing (as of August 2013) from the newer printing. Unfortunately, has failed to link the reviews to this version. For the time being, they are still there to be consulted; I don't know what will do if/when the "original" Second Edition is no longer available. With luck, they will transfer them to this printing, but the software has been known to miss the connection. [N.B. Mid-September: has since made the connection.] As for the book itself: In a widespread current usage, "rhetoric" tends to be the label applied to windy and/or flowery oratory, often with a suggestion of trickery. In dictionary terms, the meaning is considerably broader: "the art of expressive speech or discourse" and "the art or practice of writing or speaking as means of communication or persuasion" (Merriam-Webster). It includes all styles, from the plainest and most "straight-talking" (a nice piece of rhetoric in itself) to the most ornate. Despite what some scientists seem to have been taught, it definitely includes "objective" scientific reports (e.g.

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