

# GLOSSARY

**Archive:** here used to refer to a collection of historical documents, usually but not necessarily a collection held and controlled by a college, university, or other institution

**Composition:** here defined as writing completed by college students for formal credit or other academic approval

**Dissoi Logoi:** different or opposing arguments; the title applied to an ancient and anonymously authored sophistic text featuring diametrically opposed statements

**Dynaton:** the possible; a state of being located between the actual and the ideal; may appear as *to dynaton* or *dunaton*; cognate with *dynamis*

**Ecological Theories of Rhetoric:** conceptions of rhetoric as interacting continuously with social, discursive, and natural phenomena

**Elocution:** the study of speech, with special attention paid to physical qualities such as voice and gestures; elocution was commonly taught in American colleges and universities in the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century

**Epidectic Rhetoric:** Aristotelian category of rhetoric usually distinguished from the categories of forensic and deliberative rhetoric, and associated with language that praises or blames; speech common for ceremonial purposes

**Epidexis:** ancient use of language that emphasized display

**Historical Reconstruction:** according to Richard Rorty's "The Historiography of Philosophy: Four Genres," the privileging of historical understandings when studying information from a past time period

**Junior College:** category common in late-nineteenth-century to mid-twentieth-century America and used to describe postsecondary institutions that attended to nearby business, industrial, and social needs; offered academic training needed by students to do professional or semi-professional work; and prepared students to transfer to institutions conferring bachelor's degrees

**Kairos:** the opportune time for communicating in a certain manner

**Literary Societies:** college student groups devoted to the study of literature and to the study and practice of competitive, and frequently intercollegiate, speaking and debating; literary societies were popular in America in the nineteenth century, especially in the antebellum period, and influenced civic opinion; sometimes the term also referred to non-collegiate speaking or debating groups

**Neosophistic Rhetorical Theory:** a late-twentieth-century-originated category

of theory that mines ancient sophistic ideas from current vantage points and for contemporary purposes

**Nomos:** a formal rule or informal expectation governing behavior and, in a sophistic tradition, tied to the moral code held by members of a specific culture or community

**Normal College (or Normal Department):** an academic institution (or branch of an academic institution) offering studies in teacher training, especially in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century; individual cases varied, but many normal colleges began as “normal schools,” which focused on pre-college education

**Rational Reconstruction:** according to Richard Rorty, the privileging of current understandings when studying historical information

**Recitation:** in nineteenth-century American colleges and universities, a student’s recall of recently taught information

**Sophistic Rhetoric:** phrase used by some twentieth- and twenty-first-century scholars to synthesize a range of ancient teachings that eschewed certainty and absolute truth in favor of contingent arguments

**Women’s Clubs:** selective civic groups common in the early twentieth century and giving American women opportunities for individual cultivation and civic engagement, as well as participation in parliamentary procedure