1. **Definition**: An explanation or illustration of a word

- **Genus**: the larger group to which something belongs
- **Species**: characteristics of a word that make it different from other species in its genus
- **Etymology**: history and origin of a word
- **Description**: more detail than what is available in the word’s definition
- **Example**: useful in defining abstractions ( Courage is when . . . Faith is . . .)
- **Synonyms/Antonyms**
- **Procedural or operational definitions**: how something happens or occurs

*Three Rules When Defining Terms:*

1. The defining terms should be clearer and more familiar than the term to be defined.
2. The definition should not repeat the term to be defined or use synonymous or derivative terms.
3. The definition, wherever possible, should be stated positively, not negatively.

**Division (can be seen as a subtopic of definition)**

- **Whole/parts**: describing a whole and its constituent parts, to the parts that make up a whole.
- **Subject/adjuncts**: takes into account both what is essential (subject) and what is accidental or simply characteristic of something (its adjuncts)

2. **Testimony**

- **Authority and witness**
- **Testimonial**: firsthand account of something a person has experienced
- **Statistics**
- **Maxims/proverbs**: memorable, universal, wise sayings
- **Laws and documents**
- **Precedent (Example)**: look to the past
- **The supernatural (Scripture)**

3. **Comparison**

- **Similarity**: supports a conclusion by examining the similarities between two examples
- **Difference**: forms a conclusion by examining the dissimilarities between two examples
- **Degree**: supports a conclusion by examining how two examples relate to one another

4. **Relationship**

- **Cause and Effect**: A causes B or B is caused by A
- **Antecedent/Consequence**: when A is present, B naturally follows
- **Contraries**: considers opposite or incompatible things that are of the same kind
- **Contradictories**: deals with denial rather than opposition

5. **Circumstance**: applying knowledge of the past to situations in the present

- **Possible and Impossible**: examines why something can or cannot occur or be done
- **Past fact and future fact**: examines what has happened in the past and what this means for present circumstances