These are terms that we might be asked to write about in an essay question, or identity in a passage. Definition of the term.
Personification

The assignment of a human trait to a nonhuman item or characteristic.
The angry sea crashed against the wall.
Metaphor

A figure of speech in which something is described as though it were something else.
In Robert Frost’s “The Road Not Taken,” the diverging roads are a metaphor for the choices people must make in their lives.
Simile
A figure of speech that has a direct comparison between unlike things using *like* or *as*. You are as quiet as a mouse.
Alliteration

The repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in two or more words or syllables. Alliteration is found in a poem entitled “The Searchers” by Kenyan poet, John Roberts. *I remember a dog ran out from an alley, sniffed my trousers, scented rags…* The /s/ sounds in the words *sniffed* and *scented* mimic the sounds of smelling, and thereby create an image for the reader of the act of smelling.
Analogies

A comparison of similar traits between dissimilar things in order to highlight a point of similarity. We scored a touchdown on the educational assistance plan.
Figurative Language

A word or phrase that departs from literal language. The most common examples are metaphor and simile. 

*Winter's end* implies the end of a person's life.
Hyperbole

Deliberate exaggeration for effect.
The whole world’s problems are on my shoulders.
Imagery

Words or phrases that appeal to the senses (sound, smell, taste, and feel).
The siren in the night played a haunting tone.
Irony

The use of words to suggest the opposite of their intended meaning.
A parent tells a teenager, “Oh, your room is really clean.”
Literal Language

Winter’s end is the end of winter.
Symbol

Usually concrete objects or images that represent abstract ideas.
The eagle is often used as a symbol of freedom.
Paradox: A statement that seems to be self-contradicting but, in fact, is true. The figure in a Donne sonnet that concludes “I never shall be chaste except you ravish me” is a good example of the device.
Tone is a slippery word, and almost everyone has trouble with it. It’s sometimes used to mean the mood or atmosphere of a work. But its most common use as a term of literary analysis is to denote the inferred attitude of an author. When the author’s attitude is different from that of the speaker, as is usually the case in ironic works, the tone of voice of the speaker, which may be calm, businesslike, or even gracious, may be very different from the satiric tone of the work, which reflects the author’s disapproval of the speaker.
Onomatopoeia

A word whose sound imitates the actual sound to which it refers, such as pop, sizzle, and crash.
Assonance takes place when two or more words close to one another repeat the same vowel sound but start with different consonant sounds.

Men sell the wedding bells.
Consonance

**Consonance** refers to repetitive sounds produced by consonants within a sentence or phrase.

Beat! beat! drums!—blow! bugles! Blow!

He clasps the crag with crooked hands; Close to the sun in lonely lands,