

DIALECTIC CONTINUED

Because his students were familiar with the question and answer style of Socratic dialogue, Aristotle classified rhetoric as a counterpart or offshoot of dialectic. Dialectic is one on one discussion; rhetoric is one person addressing many.

Dialectic is a search for truth; rhetoric tries to demonstrate truth that's already been found

Dialectic answers general philosophical questions; rhetoric addresses specific, practical ones.

Dialectic deals with certainty; rhetoric deals with probability.

Aristotle saw this last distinction as particularly important:

Rhetoric is the art of discovering ways to make truth seem more probable to an audience that isn't completely convinced.