



Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

Overview

AP Language is a rigorous course designed to help students further their analytical and writing skills, as well as prepare students to score a passing grade on the AP test, earning potential college credit. Students enrolled in AP Language are expected to enter the class with a higher skill set of analyzing texts, and a maturity in their writing skills, than other grade level English classes. The AP Language course focuses on non-fiction reading. To be most successful in this class, students will need to draw on their outside knowledge of history and the current events of the world. **For this reason, it is recommended that students take this class no earlier than their junior year.*

Upon completing the course, students should be able to:

- analyze and interpret samples of writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques
- analyze text and respond in a limited time frame
- apply effective strategies and techniques to their own writing, demonstrating understanding and mastery of standard written English as well as demonstrate a maturity in their writing
- create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience
- write in a variety of genres and contexts, both formal and informal, employing appropriate conventions
- produce expository and argumentative compositions that introduce a complex central idea and develop it with appropriate, specific evidence, cogent explanations, and clear transitions
- move effectively through the stages of the writing process, with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing and reviewing

Homework

The majority of homework in this class will be reading assignments. Students can expect an average of 20 pages per night when novels are assigned. While the focus of AP Language is non-fiction, students will be assigned an average of six to eight novels during the school year studying their historical context.

Assessments:

AP Language is a skills based class, not content based. The majority of assessments are written assignments, many of them timed as practice for the timed essays on the AP test given in May.

To be successful in this class will take effort on the student's part. This means spending time outside of class reviewing notes, essays, and rubrics with the goal of learning and understanding: not simply getting a grade. It also means coming to class prepared and asking questions.

**This is a general overview of the class. Individual teachers' syllabi may vary, but the overall content and expectations of the class remain consistent among the classes.*