

AP English Language and Composition Information Sheet

Course Focuses:

- Understand various aspects of argument and rhetoric, and apply these in reading and writing
- Analyze a writer's choices and connect those choices to his/her purpose, position, tone, or theme
- Prepare students for future advanced and college level courses in the discipline
- Effectively develop and support a position, considering your rhetorical situation
- Hold productive discussions with peers to construct new meaning about course materials and concepts
- Identify and utilize sources to build an original argument, citing sources accurately according to the MLA 8 Style Guide
- Read, question, and communicate in a variety of rhetorical situations

Course Description:

AP[®] Language and Composition focuses on rhetoric, in all its forms. We will focus on recognizing and analyzing rhetorical purpose and the devices authors use to accomplish such, in addition to developing your own rhetorical voice. To accomplish these ends, students will read, annotate, and analyze many essays, speeches, articles, and visual texts that are intended for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students will write formally and informally for various amounts of time, for a variety of purposes. This includes journaling, discussion responses and reflections, letters, polished essays that go through the full writing cycle, AP[®]-style timed essays (in-class), and one research project. Students will write in various modes and genres: description, definition, comparative, argumentation, synthesis, analysis, and expository. All of this will build the skills students need to complete the AP[®] Language and Composition exam in May, and to read and write successfully in future courses, both high school and college.

While the main focus of this course is composition and rhetoric, activities to accomplish these goals vary and are not limited strictly to essays. We will have numerous collaborative activities and discussions using enjoyable materials in addition to serious assignments and texts.

Who Should Take This Course:

- Anyone interested in preparing for future advanced courses and college courses
- Anyone who is interested in improving their writing and ability to read analytically
- Anyone interested in earning college credit through Everett Community College or qualifying AP exam scores
- Anyone interested in a more rigorous course than the standard English 11

Course Materials:

We will expand our appreciation by reading a variety of literary selections and exploring their ideas together through regular, guided dialogue. Our full-length readings are not limited to, but will include:

- A non-fiction novel of student's choice (Summer Assignment)
- *Invisible Man*
- *The Things They Carried*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* or *The Scarlet Letter* (if time allows)

We will consult other sources, such as:

- *Everything's an Argument (with Readings)*, Sixth Edition by Lunsford, Ruskiewicz, and Walters
- *The Language of Composition, Second Edition* by Renée H. Shea, Lawrence Scanlon, and Robin Dissin Aufses
- *Elements of Literature*, Fifth Course by Beers and Odell

For more information, parents and students can contact:

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