

AP English Language and Composition

WHAT'S THIS CLASS ALL ABOUT?

Have you ever listened to someone speaking and thought, “Wow, that person knew just how to get me to listen!” In AP Language, we examine how the best speakers and writers approach their craft as well as learn how to become the best speakers and writers we can be. This class is all about *rhetoric*, or the art of speaking. We will be spending our entire year looking at nonfiction texts that craft arguments and stories meant to engage their audience.

WHAT KIND OF WORK CAN I EXPECT IN THIS CLASS?

You can expect to be reading, writing and dialoguing extensively in this class.

READING

- Students read a vast and diverse collection of short texts. You can expect to read speeches by past presidents, essays penned by important historical figures, and current news articles.
- Students also read a number of longer non-fiction texts in this course. While these texts change every year, you will form an idea of what these texts look like from this past year’s reading list: *The Glass Castle*, *Into the Wild*, *In Cold Blood*, *Outliers*, and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

WRITING

- Students write short essays and paragraphs to practice their analysis, argument, and synthesis skills.
- The bulk of writing in this course lies in practice rhetorical analysis, argument, and synthesis essays in preparation for the AP Exam in May.
- Students can also expect to complete one lengthy essay once a term. These types of essays range from personal memoir and definition essays to full-length research papers.

DIALOGUING

- AP Language thrives on students dialoguing with one another and bringing their own perspectives into the course. Students should expect to be asked to contribute to class dialogues daily based on their understanding of the readings.
- Students will also be expected to conduct fully student-run dialogues based on readings in the form of Socratic seminars.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE FOR SUMMER WORK?

The summer work for this course changes every year. However, students can generally expect to:

- Read at least two full-length nonfiction texts.
- Complete a reading journal.
- Craft written responses to a number of prompts based on the summer reading.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THIS AP EXAM?

- Section I: Multiple Choice (45 questions; 1 hour)
- Section II: Free Response (3 questions; 2 hours and 15 minutes)
 - 1 synthesis question
 - 1 rhetorical analysis question
 - 1 argument question