



Introduction to AP Language & Composition

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Hello parents & guardians,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to get to know your students this year! We genuinely enjoy teaching this course and seek out as much education and training each year to continue innovating our instruction.

What makes AP English Language & Composition different from other high school English courses is our focus on rhetoric. While promoting writing in many contexts for a variety of purposes, nonfiction texts and contexts take center stage. Here, students think deeply about language as a persuasive tool and about the dynamic relationship of speaker, purpose, audience, context, and exigence. The skills your students take away from this course will prepare them for other AP classes, college, and their unique contribution to the world.

AP Lang is a 2-trimester course, however it is recommended that students partake in one year of instruction in order to be fully prepared for the exam in May. Because of this, we offer a third-trimester Seminar where students continue to hone and enhance their skills. If your student has not enrolled in Seminar and would like to, please speak with the Counseling Office as soon as possible.

We foster self-discipline and collaboration in our classrooms, but support at home is a vital ingredient for student success. Because of this, here is an overview of the class materials and resources we recommend:

Course Materials:

- Three-ring binder for materials and portfolio
- Three-ring binder tabs for organization
- Loose leaf paper or a one-subject notebook exclusively for this class
- Black and blue pens
- Highlighters in two different colors

Suggested Materials:

- Post-its

Course Texts & Materials

- In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
- Choice nonfiction book
- Supplemental nonfiction articles, essays, and images
- News & Media

We believe that “the world is our subject; we use language to discover it.” Because of this, students are encouraged to become more informed of local, national, and world events. There are many ways to do this (social media, news applications, TV), but conversations at home are one of the most effective methods. Ask questions, prompt discussions--you’ll be impressed by their growth!

Cell Phone Policy: Attendance is necessary, but being *active* and *present* is crucial to succeeding in this class. In order to ensure every student is getting the most out of their AP Lang experience, cell phone use will be restricted. Students will be required to store their devices in their individual desk pockets unless instructed otherwise. Abuse of this policy will be tracked in Synergy. Students will have 5 chances to practice responsible technology use before their instructor contacts home and the office. Every abuse thereafter will result in a referral.

Re-Learning Opportunities:

If your student does not reach proficiency on any performance task (FRQs (on demand essays), drafted essays, etc.), they will have the opportunity for re-learning. To take advantage of this opportunity, students will be required to revise their essay, participate in a student-teacher writing conference, and schedule their rewrite within two weeks of the original performance task.

We cannot wait to get started with your students! Don’t hesitate to reach out throughout the year with questions or concerns--we’re here to help. If you are interested in keeping up with class lessons and assignments, connect via the appropriate Google Classroom code below:

To another incredible year of learning,
Michele Pinkham, Hannah Arkelin, & Jeffrey Johnson