

Advance Placement English Language and Composition

<p>Main Topics</p> <p>The AP English Language and Composition course is a course in rhetoric, the study of language used to achieve a desired effect upon a specific audience. The course is designed to provide students with opportunities to read and write effectively and confidently for a variety of purposes, about an array of subjects, and in a variety of forms. Most of the writing students complete in this course is based on reading complex texts written in a range of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. Students learn to analyze the rhetoric of prose and to demonstrate their skill in composition by writing essays in various rhetorical modes.</p>	<p>Rationale</p> <p>Our paramount goal is to lead students to an understanding of the ways in which authors use language to shape and convey meaning. We focus on close reading strategies to aid in the analysis of literature, and we assume an understanding of Standard American English (SAE) and a wide-ranging vocabulary. Much of our class time is spent emphasizing the steps of the writing process in order to improve these skills. We desire our students to write with both fluency and flair, and much time is therefore spent in drafting and revision to develop ability in the conventions of academic discourse, including MLA.</p> <p>This course is for students with a 3.0 GPA and a 3 or higher on the FSA or FAST ELA who are ready for the rigor of a college-level course.</p>	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonfiction Book Excerpts • Current Events Articles • Opinion-Editorials • Historical & Contemporary Speeches • Historical & Contemporary Letters • Rhetorically Significant Major Works 	<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argumentative Essays • Analysis Essays • Source-Based Arguments (Synthesis) • Research Papers
<p>Grade Composition</p> <p>Formative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classwork/Homework • Shorter writing assignments • Analytical Questions • Skills Application <p>Summative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Tests • Timed Writing • Formal Essays • Projects 	<p>Skill Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar, Mechanics, and Rhetoric • Annotation (Close Reading) • Formal Essay Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Argument ◦ Analysis ◦ Synthesis • Critical Analysis & Multiple-Choice Strategies • SAT/ACT Skills 	<p>Sample excerpt from <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925)</p> <p>“I believe that on the first night I went to Gatsby’s house I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited. People were not invited—they went there. They got into automobiles which bore them out to Long Island, and somehow they ended up at Gatsby’s door. Once there they were introduced by somebody who knew Gatsby, and after that they conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with an amusement park. Sometimes they came and went without having met Gatsby at all, came for the party with a simplicity of heart that was its own ticket of admission.</p> <p>I had actually been invited. A chauffer in a uniform of robin’s-egg blue crossed my lawn early that Saturday morning with a surprisingly formal note from his employer: the honor would be entirely Gatsby’s, it said, if I would attend his “little party” that night. He had seen me several times, and had intended to call on me long before, but a peculiar combination of circumstances had prevented it—signed <i>Jay Gatsby</i>, in a majestic hand.”</p>	