

AP Language and Composition

Overview

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This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement Test and will further develop students' abilities as skilled analysts of a broad range of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. As stated in the current edition of the College Board's AP English Course Description, the primary goal of this course is to help students "write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum and in their professional and personal lives" (6). The course reading assignments will include diaries, essays, journals, autobiographies, biographies, analytical essays as well as historical, political, and scientific writings. Students will compose in a variety of modes for a variety of purposes. Students will enhance their vocabulary skills, practice speaking and listening skills, and expand their research skills. In addition, students will analyze rhetorical devices used in graphics and visual images such as political cartoons, advertisements, comic strips, and photographs.

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to work and all assignments (homework and in-class) are expected to be completed on time.

AP Exam

The AP English Language test is comprised of:

- A 60-minute multiple-choice section,
- Followed by a 2 hour and 15-minute free response section (3 essays).
 - a synthesis essay which requires evaluating both sides of an argument, analyzing sources, and then supporting a position,
 - an analytical essay which requires reading a passage and analyzing the techniques the writer uses to convey a message, and
 - an argumentative essay.

The test requires demonstration of an ability to read closely, mostly for content, author's purpose, structure, or style, as well as critical thinking skills necessary to analyze and produce well written essays. Because the AP English Language test is a skills-based test, success will be measured by the students' incremental growth as a reader and writer, not by a power-studying weekend before the test.

English 11 Honors

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English 11 Honors deepens and advances the curriculum of English 11. Students read and analyze a variety of literary and nonfiction texts from American literature, compare themes of various works, and analyze expository materials to draw conclusions. Language study extends students' vocabulary through applying understanding of connotations, denotations, word origins, rhetorical devices, and use of literary devices and structures.

Students apply their understanding of grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing to varied and frequent writing assignments. With an emphasis on persuasive writing, students apply their skills and adapt content, vocabulary, voice, and tone to a specific audience and purpose.

In the research process, students analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and organize information from a variety of sources to produce a research product. They also refine their oral communication skills through gathering and organizing evidence to support a position in informative and persuasive presentations individually and in small group settings.

Standards of Learning Assessments

Students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Tests (Writing and Reading). Passing scores on both tests are required for graduation.