

## AP English Language and Composition Overview for Parents and Students

*\*This class requires summer work: students must complete a novel and essay, which are due on the first day of class. Failure to complete this work will result in removal from the class.*

Course Overview
AP English Language and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situations, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style.

<b>Course Content:</b> The course is organized into <b>nine units</b> , with each focusing on specific skills related to analyzing and composing arguments. Teachers have flexibility in selecting themes and texts for each unit. Major components include:													
<b>Unit 1: The Rhetorical Situation</b>	Students learn to analyze how exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message shape an author's choices and apply these concepts in their own writing.												
<b>Unit 2: Claims and Evidence</b>	Focus on identifying claims and evaluating evidence like facts, statistics, and anecdotes to build strong arguments.												
<b>Unit 3: Reasoning &amp; Organization</b>	Explore how writers structure arguments, develop lines of reasoning, and connect evidence to claims using effective commentary.												
<b>Unit 4: Style</b>	Examine how elements like word choice, syntax, and tone enhance an argument's effectiveness and begin applying these techniques.												
<b>Unit 5: Synthesis</b>	Practice combining multiple sources into cohesive arguments while maintaining credibility and an authentic voice.												
<b>Unit 6: Argumentation</b>	Refine evidence-based argument skills, including crafting thesis statements, structuring arguments, and addressing counter arguments.												
<b>Unit 7: Using Sources</b>	Learn to evaluate, integrate, and cite sources while rebutting or qualifying opposing views to strengthen arguments												
<b>Unit 8: Rhetorical Analysis</b>	Analyze rhetorical strategies in nonfiction texts and refine the ability to write effective rhetorical analysis essays.												
<b>Unit 9: Argument Practice &amp; Progress</b>	Revisit and apply skills in increasingly complex contexts to prepare for the AP exam, focusing on areas of need.												
<b>Sample of Readings Covered in Course:</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;"><i>The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i></td> <td>Frederick Douglass</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>The Scarlet Letter</i></td> <td>Nathaniel Hawthorne</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i></td> <td>Mark Twain</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>The Great Gatsby</i></td> <td>F.Scott Fitzgerald</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Fahrenheit 451</i></td> <td>Ray Bradbury</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>The Crucible</i></td> <td>Arthur Miller</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	Frederick Douglass	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	Nathaniel Hawthorne	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Mark Twain	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	F.Scott Fitzgerald	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury	<i>The Crucible</i>	Arthur Miller
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Student Skill Developed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Rhetorical Analysis:</b> Analyze how writers' choices reflect the rhetorical situation, including exigence, audience, purpose, and context.</li> <li>- <b>Argumentation:</b> Craft logical, evidence-based arguments by developing claims, supporting them with reasoning and evidence, and addressing counter arguments.</li> <li>- <b>Source Evaluation:</b> Evaluate the credibility and relevance of sources and integrate them effectively into written arguments.</li> <li>- <b>Synthesis:</b> Combine information from multiple sources to develop cohesive arguments while maintaining a clear and consistent voice.</li> <li>- <b>Style and Tone:</b> Use stylistic elements such as word choice, syntax, and imagery to enhance arguments and achieve specific rhetorical effects.</li> <li>- <b>Organization and Coherence:</b> Structure writing with clear lines of reasoning, effective commentary, and appropriate transitions to guide the audience.</li> <li>- <b>Critical Reading:</b> Identify claims, evidence, and rhetorical strategies in nonfiction texts and evaluate their effectiveness.</li> </ul>

## Expected Student Workload

### Classroom Work Requirements

Students in AP English Language and Composition will engage in discussions, analyze nonfiction texts, practice AP-style questions, and complete timed essays, including collaborative work on rhetorical strategies and arguments.

### Independent Work Requirements

Outside of class, students will read assigned nonfiction texts, annotate for rhetorical elements, prepare notes for discussions, complete practice essays, revise their writing, and independently compose a formal research essay in the second semester with in-class guidance.

**Students should plan to spend 3-5 hours on homework and study time each week, depending on their reading speed, comprehension level and critical thinking skills.**

## AP Exam Structure

The AP English Language and Composition Exam is a **3-hour, 15-minute** test assessing skills in rhetorical analysis and argumentative writing.

### Section I

#### Multiple Choice (45% of score)

45 questions in 60 minutes

45 questions assessing comprehension of nonfiction passages and analysis of rhetorical strategies.

### Section II

#### Free-Response (55% of score)

3 questions in 2 hours, 15 minutes  
(includes a 15-minute reading period)

**Synthesis Essay:** Develop an argument using at least 3 sources from a provided set.

**Rhetorical Analysis:** Analyze rhetorical choices in a given nonfiction passage.

**Argument Essay:** Craft an argument on a given topic using evidence and reasoning.

## How AP Exams are Scored

The AP English Language and Composition Exam assesses students' mastery of rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesis skills through a combination of multiple-choice and free-response sections.

### Multiple-Choice Section

This section evaluates students' ability to analyze nonfiction passages and identify rhetorical strategies. Each correct answer earns points, and there is no penalty for incorrect responses, so students are encouraged to answer all questions.

### Free-Response Section

The free-response section includes three essays: a synthesis essay, a rhetorical analysis, and an argument essay. Essays are evaluated on students' ability to craft clear, well-supported arguments, analyze rhetorical choices, and integrate evidence effectively. Scoring rubrics focus on thesis development, use of evidence, commentary, and overall sophistication of thought.

### Grading Process and Consistency

Experienced AP readers, including teachers and college faculty, score the free-response essays. Rigorous training and calibration sessions ensure consistency and fairness in scoring across all exams.

### Composite Score and Scaling

Scores from each section of the AP exam are combined into a composite score, which is then converted to the AP 5-point scale. A score of 5 means "extremely well qualified," while a 3 indicates "qualified," and a 1 means "no recommendation." A score of 3 or higher is generally considered passing, but some colleges only grant credit for scores of 4 or 5. Be sure to check your colleges of interest for their AP credit policy to confirm its score requirements for credit. **All AP scores are released in July. Students can check their College- Board accounts for their scores. GCS only puts AP scores of 3 or higher on student transcripts.**

\*Please note that most colleges do not accept both AP Lang and AP Lit, and some do not accept either. Please be sure to check your colleges of interest for their AP credit policies.