



AP Language and Composition: Syllabus

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I. COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

“AP” stands for many things: “Analyze the prompt,” “Advanced Placement,” “Awesome Prose,” “Amazing Passages,” “Always Prepared...” It does NOT stand for “Always Procrastinating,” “Apologizing Perpetually,” or even “Average Practice.” The goal of this class is to turn average 11th graders into rhetorical geniuses who can argue, challenge, defend, synthesize, analyze, and more. It is as CLOSE TO A COLLEGE CLASS on the LHS campus as you will come. You will read everything from classic American documents to modern essays on the American Dream. While our main goal is to better prepare you for both college and the world beyond, our short-term objectives will be to transform you into critical thinkers and engage preparation for the AP Language and Composition exam in May.

II. EXPECTATIONS

This is a **college-level course** It is expected that students will do all outside reading and writing as assigned. It is assumed that students will complete homework assignments and submit all essays when they are due, attend class regularly, and come prepared to participate. Failure to do so will result in parent conferences and potential removal from the class.

III. COURSE PLANNER

The academic year will use five thematic units to cover a wide range of nonfiction texts, public documents, speeches, as well as literary and digital texts to prepare students for college and AP exam success. All texts are tied to the reading and writing level on the AP exam. Most texts will be read in class, but some will require at-home reading.

IV. GRADING SYSTEM

To pass the course for AP credit, learners must earn a 3 in all AP English Language MTs (located under 13A in Educate). In addition, learners’ essays will be scored on a rubric of 1 to 9 as is used in the AP exam.

V. AP EXAM

The AP Language and Composition exam takes place in May. The test is a paid test- it is around \$90, but many learners will qualify for a fee waiver and will pay around \$55 only. Because this class is in demand and part of LHS’s commitment to serving the needs of its students, it is important you understand the following:

- As an AP learner, you must register and take the AP exam in May
- By signing the following, you commit to registering, paying and taking the AP Language and Composition exam in May.

Learner Name and Signature

Date

Guardian Name and Signature

Date

VI. MATERIALS

All AP Learners will be expected to come DAILY with the following items, starting August 20th, 2014.

- 3 ring binder of at least 2" width
- Binder paper
- Pencils, pens, highlighters
- Laptop

VII. LIFE SKILLS

Life skills, including conduct, citizenship, and timely evidence completion, will be assessed weekly as well as through assigned performance tasks in class. Group work and collaborative activities will also be part of the score given in the weekly life-long learning skills.

VIII. ATTITUDE AND EFFORT

This class will be, at all times, CHALLENGING and A COLLEGE-LEVEL AMOUNT OF WORK. It will require immense effort both in and out of class. Your attitude and effort will be the greatest factor in your success. Decide now how dedicated you are to success in this class and on the AP exam—the more determined and open to ideas and instruction you are, the higher your scores and success will soar. There is no limit to how much effort and time I (Miss Skinner) will put into your success, but you must first bring the necessary attitude and effort.

IX. NON-NEGOTIABLES

Cheating: Don't do it. This includes: asking for answers, copying work, using internet searches on tests, copying sources off the internet without citing them. I know how to use Google to find answers as well – remember that. Your writing is like your fingerprint: everyone's is different, which makes it easy to spot a fake.

Gum: Gum always ends up where it should not be. Spit it out when you enter the classroom (although you shouldn't have it on campus at all).

Cell Phones, I-Pods, Etc.: If I see it (whether you're using it or not), I take it. First time = in my desk all period; 2nd time = in my desk all day; 3rd time = sent to the office. Don't go there. If you're going to be tempted, just give me your phone to lock up at the beginning of the period.

Swearing: Swear words just go to show that you don't have a better word to express yourself. In other words? It's the opposite of an AP student. There are 450,000 words in the English language. Stop using the same five.