

AP English Language & Composition | Summer Reading 2022

Course Description

The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text— from a range of disciplines and historical periods. AP Lang cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of diverse texts and becoming flexible, reflective writers of texts addressed to diverse audiences for diverse purposes. The reading and writing students do in the course should deepen and expand their understanding of how written language functions rhetorically: to communicate writers' intentions and elicit readers' responses in particular situations. (College Board Course and Exam Description, effective Fall 2020).

All students enrolled in AP English III must complete a summer reading assignment by the first day of school.

Required Reading and Assignment:

Begin by reviewing [this reading resource](#) from Harvard College Library.

Next, read the essay [“Politics and the English Language” by George Orwell](#).

Finally, after you've read the essay, make a copy of [this document and answer the questions](#). Responses should be typed, insightful and employ the use of textual evidence. Guidelines you have been taught for responding to open-ended questions are appropriate here, so one healthy paragraph per question should suffice. MLA citation is not necessary.

On the second day of school, you will submit your responses to Turnitin.com.

Suggested Nonfiction Reading:

Though not required, we highly recommend you choose a work of **nonfiction** to read this summer. Reading is a great way to gain some perspective about the worldwide issues and ideas we'll face in class next year, and reading *arguments* is a great way to become better at writing them!

[Pulitzer Prize-Winning Nonfiction](#)
[The Ultimate AP Language Reading List](#)

Additional Information—Required Class Supplies

- Pens (blue/black for assignments; other color to edit)
- Pencils
- Charged iPad for access to textbook and Google Classroom assignments
- One note card spiral (3x5) or packages of notecards
- folder
- One spiral notebook—used only for English
- (community supplies) Choose ONE: box of Kleenex, package of highlighters, package of sticky notes

AP English Language & Composition or On-Level English III?

The primary focus of this course is developing effective writing and critical reading skills, with special emphasis on rhetoric and argument. In deciding whether you should take on-level or AP English, you should ask yourself several questions:

- Are you self-motivated to keep up with classwork, homework, reading assignments, and several tasks at once?

AP students must be disciplined enough to complete readings and assignments on their own, outside of class. At different points in the year, you may be asked to complete multiple tasks at once (projects, reading assignments, etc).

- Are you frequently absent (for whatever reason)?

You will be at a disadvantage if you consistently miss class. The skills we are refining are often through whole-class and small-group discussion and assignments.

- Have you done fairly well in Pre-AP English ? Or, have you done extremely well in regular English (to the point you're desperate for a challenge)?

The level of expectation and the pace go up next year, not down, so you need to have a solid foundation to do well. If you've struggled during your sophomore year, and haven't improved as the year has progressed, you may not be ready for AP English. If you've consistently made As and Bs and are willing to work hard, AP is for you.

- Do you enjoy reading and discussion?

As you might expect, there is a fairly heavy reading load in AP English. It's mostly nonfiction. If you don't like to read (especially nonfiction), AP probably isn't for you. This isn't to say you will like or agree with every idea presented in what we read; there's a big difference. You're free to dislike or disagree with the pieces—but you can't do that if you didn't read them or just think reading is “so boring.” Also, we will discuss everything we read—both for the writing style and the purpose/opinion that is conveyed. Students who participate in class discussion are more successful in the class.

- Do you enjoy writing and/or would you like to improve your writing?

AP English is a writing intensive class. We will focus on argument and rhetorical analysis, which is new for some people. If you enjoy arguing and want to learn effective writing strategies, AP is your class.

- Why are you taking this class?

If the answer to this question is for the grade multiplier, then AP English III is probably not the route you want to take. Successful AP students are those who are intellectually curious, appreciate learning, value education, and enjoy intellectual endeavors—beyond just a number in the gradebook.

We hope you have a great summer! Please contact the AP English III team if you have any questions.

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