

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Questions? Contact Ms. Kinzer (sarah.kinzer@lcps.org) or Mrs.Lima (stephanie.lima@lcps.org) or Mrs.Cegielski (christine.cegielski@lcps.org)

The focus of this course is two-fold: (1) to provide students with a rich and engaging environment in which to write, experience and deconstruct non-fiction texts and (2) to prepare students for the AP Exam.

- Equivalent to a 1 semester college writing analysis course
- May earn college credit with an AP exam score of 3, 4, or 5 (Check with your college bulletin regarding the score you may need to receive credit.)
- Students should have *successfully* completed English 10 Honors.
- Students must have or be willing to develop excellent time management skills.
- Students should enjoy writing, reading, and analyzing language.

Sample Works (from 2016-2017 syllabus)

Summer Assignments (pick one)

The Wright Brothers, Grit, Alexander Hamilton, Killing Lincoln, First Women, The Boys in the Boat

Novels

*The Things They Carried
The Glass Castle
The Great Gatsby
Into The Wild
In Cold Blood*

Other Works

Essays
Speeches
Newspaper Articles
Magazines

Course Goals:

- Build critical reading and analytical skills
- Develop a college-level vocabulary.
- Produce writing that is clear, insightful, organized, and mechanically correct.
- Develop a thorough understanding of the research process.
- Thoroughly prepare students to pass the A.P. Language exam.

Students will learn to *identify* how context, audience, and speaker interact, and how speakers and writers use various rhetorical appeals and devices to achieve their purposes. We will examine how authors craft arguments and what techniques make for particularly effective rhetoric.

Assignments:

- Computer use outside of class is expected
- Expect to read every night & discuss in class
- Small and large group text dissection
- Writing Workshop – peer and instructor led

Workload:

- Expect a college-level workload
- Expect homework every day
- Expect a pre-course summer assignment
- Expect to use online forums to post work

Assessments:

- Frequent quizzes on reading assignments, rhetorical devices, and writing skills.
- Timed Writes in class
- Extended Independent Writing (Turnitin.com)
- Socratic Seminars and Group Projects
- Impromptu speeches
- AP Practice Exams
- Independent Reading Project

AP Exam (3 hours in May):

- Part I –four or five reading passages with a total of 50-60 MC questions – **45% of test score**
- Part II –three essays to write: one rhetorical analysis, one synthesis analysis, and one argumentative question – **55% of test score**

Rhetoric is the art of ruling the minds of men- Plato



Is Advanced Placement right for you?"

Please answer "yes" or "no" to the following questions:

- 1) Are you thinking of attending a college or university after high school?*
- 2) Can you devote two to three hours to homework each day?*
- 3) Are you willing to make a firm commitment to persevere in the AP course until you find success, even if the course proves to be challenging at the beginning of the school year?*
- 4) Are you willing to limit your hours per week on a part-time job?*
- 5) Are you willing to manage your time? Academics is a key to college admission and over committing yourself can have a negative effect on your academic transcript without proper time management.*
- 6) Do you like to read without being told to do so?*
- 7) Can you limit community activities during the week?*
- 8) Are you willing to commit yourself to completing assigned tasks on time?*
- 9) Are you willing to commit extra time to the improvement of your writing skills?*
- 10) Are you willing to spend extra time and effort to earn a college credit in a high school course?*

If there are more "no" than "yes" responses, Advanced Placement (AP) may not be the right choice for you. Please talk with your parents, teachers, and counselor to help make the best decision for you. With balance and determination, you can be successful – but it will take hard work!