

AP English Language and Composition: Course Introduction and Policies

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Welcome! I'm glad that you've decided to take on the challenge of AP Lang this year. Your decision shows that you are dedicated to working hard and committed to improving your language skills to meet the demands of this college-level course. I expect you to find this journey challenging, at times even difficult, but if you persevere, you will be rewarded with deeper critical thinking and clear communication skills.

This course focuses on rhetoric: the art of effective persuasion. We will read and analyze primarily non-fiction pieces, some of which will challenge your current thinking. Many of the pieces you will disagree with. Sometimes you may change your mind; other times, you will analyze the argument and find yourself unmoved. Expect to encounter sophisticated and provocative thinking by skilled authors, speakers, and leaders across the ideological spectrum. Entertaining new ideas requires maturity and thoughtfulness. Keep an open mind, and approach both the works we read and our class discussions with respect.

Attendance

The number one predictor of success in this college-level course is **attendance**. Because we are on a block schedule, if you miss one day, you're missing two classes. If you are sick, please stay home and communicate with me so we can get you caught up. All absent work is posted on Google Classroom. Do your work BEFORE you come back to class. If you are NOT sick, come to class. You'll be glad you did. One final note: **Fridays are not free days**. Again, it's a block schedule. Whatever we're doing on Friday is Thursday's or Monday's assignment for the other classes.

AP Exam

Our course is set by College Board and all enrolled students are expected to take the AP Language and Composition Exam in May.

Grades

Grades are comprised of 2 categories, which are set by BISD:

- 50% MAJOR: Multiple choice exams, essays, projects
- 50% MINOR: Quizzes, daily reading and writing, homework
- Extra credit is not available.

See next page for details on late and absent work.

Units of Study

- Unit 1: Basics of Rhetoric
- Unit 2: Everything's an Argument - The Power of Words
- Unit 3: Arguments - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
- Unit 4: Arguments - Science and Reasoning
- Unit 5: Arguments - Community and Progress
- Unit 6: Building Argument - Synthesis Intro
- Unit 7: Building Argument - Synthesis Practice
- Unit 8: On Your Mark (Exam Prep)
- Unit 9: Get Set (Exam Prep)

Required Supplies

- Students will, of course, need a **pen**, a **red pen**, and **paper**.
- **Highlighters**, several colors
- **Post-it Notes** (donate these to the class - we use them extensively for annotating and discussion)
- **1" Binder** (You need to stay organized to keep up in class. The binder will be required.)
- **5 Dividers**

Getting Help

See me before school, ask during class, drop a comment on Google Classroom. I want you to be successful. Let me know if you're struggling.

AP Lang Homework and Grading Policies

Homework in AP Lang consists primarily of reading and annotating short passages that we will then write about and discuss in class. While the homework is not time-consuming, it is nevertheless **essential** that students finish it and come to class prepared.

Late Homework Policy				
Turned in by the START of class on the due date.	Turned in by the next day at 8 AM.	Turned one class period late.	Turned in two class periods late.	No credit after two class periods.
Full credit	-15 points	-30 points	Half Credit	

Students who have a 504 plan with extra time will have an extended deadline according to the time set in their plan. After that, the regular policy applies. Keep in mind that we will be using these passages in class.

- **Absent** work must be turned in within one class period of return to class. After that, absent work is subject to the late grading policy.
- If you had homework due upon return to class and were absent, that homework is due upon your return to class, not one class period later.
- **Please pay for the AP exam.** Students who take the exam are exempt from the final, regardless of whether or not they pass the AP exam. (The AP Lang Final will be on par with the AP exam: 45 multiple choice questions, 3 essays, and no curve.)
- Any student turning in either absent or late work **must fill out the Missing Work Form on Google Classroom in order to get the grade updated.** I update that by Friday afternoon each week. If it's not updated by then, email me and let me know.

AP Lang Google Classroom Codes

2nd Period	yrzxdhn
3rd Period	bf5myxo
5th Period	lvtkzh
7th Period	omh2tol