

# ◊ AP English Language and Composition - Segerstrom High School ◊

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## 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 (College Board).

AP English Language and Composition cultivates reading and writing skills 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 the English language functions and prepare students to be better consumers of information.

## College Course Prerequisite and Equivalence

There are no prerequisite courses for AP English Language and Composition. Students should be able to read and comprehend college-level texts and write grammatically correct, complete sentences. The AP English Language and Composition course aligns with an introductory, college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum.

## Learning Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Attend class on time by being in the room before the bell rings
- Participate in activities and class discussions
- Keep notes in a dedicated notebook that you bring to class every day
- Complete assignments thoughtfully and thoroughly
- Complete homework assignments with effort
- Be prepared for multiple-choice and written tests

## Course Curriculum

This course centers around students developing the skills of rhetorical analysis and composition. Here is a breakdown of the course curriculum. You will:

- Study and analyze **arguments, persuasion, rhetoric, and rhetorical strategies**
- Practice AP-style timed **writing** and complete AP-level **multiple-choice questions**
- Identify and describe components of a **rhetorical situation**
- Identify and explain **claims** and **evidence** within an argument
- Recognize and explain **methods** writers employ to develop **valid, sound arguments** and accomplish a **purpose**
- Identify ways effective **writers appeal** to and persuade their audiences while practicing such appeals in their own student paragraphs
- Analyze how **connotations** of particular words convey a **writer's attitude** or feeling about a **subject**
- Focus on improving ways to explain and connect evidence to claims to establish a clear **line of reasoning** throughout an essay
- Craft **introductions** and **conclusions** that demonstrate a real understanding of the rhetorical situation
- Identify the **complexities** and **nuances** of a given topic by synthesizing **sophisticated, well-supported arguments** from a wide variety of sources

To support students in meeting California Common Core Curriculum Standards for Grade 11, students will read and analyze select pieces of American Literature.

Throughout the year, students will **take AP-style multiple-choice tests** and **produce timed writings**. The Advanced Placement rubric provided by the College Board (6-point) will be used to evaluate timed student writing aligned with the AP Exam. Students will also be required to write essays for school and district assessments, and students will be evaluated using the SAUSD Writing Rubrics.

## Course Texts

AP Core Text:	Nonfiction Texts:	Common Core Texts:
<i>Ideas in Argument: Building Skills and Understanding for the AP<sup>®</sup> English Language Course</i> , 1st Edition by John R. Williamson, Mary Jo Zell, and Elizabeth Davis	<i>Outliers</i> by Malcolm Gladwell Select nonfiction texts from pre-17th century to contemporary	Selection of American Literature

## Required Materials

- A **composition book** dedicated to AP English Language and Composition class
- Your **Chromebook or other laptop** to access assignments and participate in class
- Writing utensils such as **pencils** and **pens**
- When requested, bring an **independent reading book** to class
- Optional - A few **highlighters** and a set of **colored pencils** or **markers**. Some will be provided in class.

## Course Grade

Grade Categories	Grade Breakdown
<b>Essays/Writing/Projects</b> 40%	<b>A</b> 89.5% - 100%
<b>Class Work/Homework</b> 30%	<b>B</b> 79.5% - 89.49%
<b>Tests/Quizzes</b> 30%	<b>C</b> 69.5% - 79.49%
	<b>D</b> 59.5% - 69.49%
	<b>F</b> 0% - 59.49%

## Make-Up Work/Late Work Policy

- **Absences:** It is the responsibility of the student to make up any work missed during a period of excused absence. If a student has an excused absence, a student will be given the same number of days to make up the work missed. If the absence is not excused, the student will not be allowed to make up missed work.
  - **For example**, if you are absent on Monday and return to school on Tuesday, you will have one day to turn in the assignment. Thus, your teacher will expect the assignment to be turned in no later than Wednesday (in this hypothetical example).
- **Late Work:** Late work is not accepted. If you are absent and missed an assignment, please read "Absences" above.
- **Make-Up Tests and Timed Writes:** Make-up tests and timed writes are held before school, during office hours, and sometimes during class. It is your responsibility to set up a make-up date.

## Academic Honesty

- The teacher will notify the administration and contact parents if **cheating/plagiarism/AI** is suspected. This results in Saturday School and a mark on your record.
- The student will be given a **ZERO** for that test or assignment.

In this class, **plagiarism** includes (but is not limited to)...

- Turning in another's **work** as your own.
- **Copying** work from a friend before class, during class (or while in another class).
- Including a source but failing to **cite** it.
- Copying an **author's exact words** and passing them off as your own.

While AI and chatbots can be wonderfully useful tools, they are not permitted to be used on assignments to:

- Write essays, short stories, poems, screenplays, letters, etc.
- Answer short response questions
- Complete assignments that require you to demonstrate your understanding of a topic or skill.

**Printed Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID:** \_\_\_\_\_