

An AP English Language and Composition course 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).

Because AP is a college preparatory course, the reading and writing will be rigorous and require diligence and dedication. Students will be well-prepared to take the AP exam, though it is not a requirement to do so.

Concepts and Skills		
Concept	Reading Skills	Writing Skills
Rhetorical Situation	<p>Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message.</p> <p>Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.</p>	<p>Write introductions and conclusions appropriate to the purpose and context of the rhetorical situation.</p> <p>Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.</p>
Claims & Evidence	<p>Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.</p> <p>Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument's structure.</p> <p>Explain ways claims are qualified through modifiers, counterarguments, and alternative perspectives.</p>	<p>Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim.</p> <p>Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument.</p> <p>Qualify a claim using modifiers, counterarguments, or alternative perspectives.</p>
Reasoning & Organization	<p>Describe the line of reasoning and explain whether it supports an argument's overarching thesis.</p> <p>Explain how the organization of a text creates unity and coherence and reflects a line of reasoning.</p> <p>Recognize and explain the use of methods of development to accomplish a purpose.</p>	<p>Develop a line of reasoning and commentary that explains it throughout an argument.</p> <p>Use transitional elements to guide the reader through the line of reasoning of an argument.</p> <p>Use appropriate methods of development to advance an argument.</p>
Style	<p>Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.</p> <p>Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas.</p> <p>Explain how grammar and mechanics contribute to the clarity and effectiveness of an argument.</p>	<p>Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument.</p> <p>Write sentences that clearly convey ideas and arguments.</p> <p>Use established conventions of grammar and mechanics to communicate clearly and effectively.</p>

Content & Controversial Topics

Because of the nature of this course, controversial topics are unavoidable. Issues that might, from particular social, historical, or cultural viewpoints, be considered controversial, including references to ethnicities, nationalities, religions, races, dialects, gender, or class, may be addressed. Fair representation of issues and peoples may occasionally include controversial material (College Board). Thoughtful analysis of these texts is essential, including the larger meaning, purpose, or overall effect of the controversial language and/or ideas in context. AP students should have the maturity, skill and will be guided through thoughtful analysis, discussion and research as required.

Materials

All instructional materials will be provided to students. These include:

- texts in various formats
- videos
- podcasts
- graphics

In addition, students will have access to classroom and library resources to complete readings and assignments.

Supplies

Students will need the following to stay organized and be successful in this course:

- notebook (can be composition book, spiral notebook or binder with paper)
- highlighters and/or colored pencils
- Chromebook (and charger)

Attendance & Participation

As with all courses, attendance is of the utmost importance not only to receive instruction but to benefit from interaction with classmates. Participation each day is essential. This course will be reliant on discussion, presentations and activities to create a strong learning community. Each student is integral to the community's success.

When absences are necessary, students need to check resources on Classroom and get caught up in a timely manner. Remember, Office Hours are available on Thursdays if teacher assistance or classroom materials are needed.

Classroom Expectations

Be respectful at all times – of yourself, of your classmates, of me, of our time, space and materials, of our purpose and of your potential.

Cell Phones & Devices

There may be times when you will use your devices. These times will be directed. Phones are to be turned off and stowed. They should not be visible or audible. This includes audio accessories.

Cheating & Plagiarism

No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. If this occurs, you will receive a zero for the assignment with no make-up opportunity in addition to disciplinary action and consequences.

These infractions usually occur when students feel ill-prepared and panic. Please talk to me instead.

AP Exam Information

The AP Exam will be on Tues., May 9. It consists of 45 multiple choice questions and three free response essays: rhetorical analysis, argument and synthesis. More details and information will be provided on the exam. The exam is not a requirement of the course.

Contact Information

Email: jderryberry@mcpsmt.org

Phone: (406) 728-2400 ext. 6521 (during school hours)

Google Classroom (will forward to email)