

AP Language & Composition

September 7/8, 2017

Summit High School – Ms. Ables

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to help students “write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum and in their professional and personal lives” (CollegeBoard [AP English Course Description](#), May 2007, May 2008, p. 6). Therefore, students will be expected to read critically, think analytically, and communicate clearly both in writing and speech. With that said, students will be exposed to material that would be found at the college level and to approach this class with the attitude that it is a college course due to the fact that it is a course approved by the College Board and the student as the opportunity to earn college credit upon passing the AP exam in May.

The goals for students are as follows:

- Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author’s use of rhetorical strategies and techniques;
- Apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing
- Create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience
- Demonstrate understanding and mastery of standard written English
- Demonstrate stylistic maturity in their own writings
- Write for a variety of purposes
- Write in a variety of genres and contexts, both formal and informal
- Employ appropriate conventions
- Produce expository and argumentative compositions
- Introduce a complex central idea and develop it with appropriate, specific evidence, cogent explanations, and clear transitions
- Move effectively through the stages of the writing process with careful attention to inquiry and research, synthesizing, drafting, revising, editing and review
- Write thoughtfully about their own process of composition
- Revise a work to make it suitable for a different audience
- Analyze image as text
- Evaluate and incorporate reference documents into researched papers

(CollegeBoard [AP English Course Description](#), May 2007, May 2008. p. 9)

Rules and Expectations:

1. **Be respectful of others, the environment and yourself.** Everyone is expected to treat classmates, teachers, parents and volunteers as you would like to be treated. Leave the school/classroom as you found it, if not even better, and last, but not least, speak positively about yourself and your abilities. You will only achieve great things if you believe in yourself first.
2. **Technology in the classroom. Come to class with iPads charged and ready to be used. While they won’t be used each day, the expectation is they need to be ready at a moment’s notice.**
 - a. If using an iPad or cell phone when instructed otherwise or during class discussion: (1) warning (2) Ms. Ables will temporarily obtain for the rest of the day (3) device will be given to an administrator for discipline
 - b. Testing/Quizzes + technology device = immediate zero. If a student attempts to use or uses technology during a vocabulary quiz, multiple choice quiz or exam, even if to check a message, the device will be taken and the quiz will receive a ZERO. No technology is allowed during tests or quizzes.

3. **All sunglasses, hoods, etc. will be removed in the classroom.**
4. **Water and securely covered hot drinks (tea, coffee) only! (no food, or other drink)**

Grading:

A weighted grade will apply as AP courses are considered for the Honors Diploma:

Summative Assessments:

- **30% Essays:** Most essays will first be written as an in-class essay. Students will have **one** opportunity to revise their final essay after teacher has graded their final draft which must be turned in within 10 school days of the original assignment in order to receive review/credit. (*Turn all revisions into the Excused basket. NOT your class's regular basket.*)

Essay scores will be as follows for Essay following the AP College Board scoring rubric:

2nd – Semester (in alignment with AP)	1st Semester (as we get our sea legs)
9 100% – 9pt	9 100% - 9pt
8 98% – 8.82pt	8 100% - 9pt
7 95% – 8.55pt	7 95% - 8.55pt
6 88% – 7.92pt	6 90% - 8.1pt
5 80% – 7.2pt	5 85% - 7.65pt
4 75% – 6.75pt	4 80% - 7.2pt
3 70% – 6.3pt	3 70% - 6.3pt
2 65% – 5.85pt	2 65% - 5.85pt
1 50% – 4.5pt	1 50% - 4.5pt

- **25% Vocab & Roots Quizzes/Tests:** Quizzes will consist of weekly vocabulary and Latin/Greek root comprehension and memorization. There will be review tests every four weeks and a final at the end of each semester. These **cannot** be retaken.
- **15% Multiple Choice Quizzes:** MC quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions based on rhetorical devices and their functions in given passages. Some passages will be from texts read and studied, but some passages will be from new material that the student will be analyzing for the first time. Each multiple-choice quiz may be revised once within 10 school days of receiving the original score. A revision must contain the correct answer with detailed reasoning of the correct answer and specific clarification of the error in their incorrect choice. (*Turn all revisions into the Excused basket. NOT your class's regular basket.*)
- **10% Follow a Columnist Project** As a means of keeping up-to-date with public discourse issues, observing effective rhetorical strategies used by seasoned veterans in their profession, and analyzing the purpose and effect of strategies used based on context, you are required to follow a national columnist in a newspaper. One per semester. The project will consist of four tasks spread out over the entire semester.
- **10% Reading Check Quizzes/Annotations:** Quizzes are primarily to check for reading and basic understanding of a text, understanding and proper demonstration of grammatical and mechanical concepts reviewed during each unit. (*May NOT retake any reading check quizzes.*)

Homework/Practice

- **10% Daily:** Daily assignments consist of a variety of tasks. Some of these tasks involve daily evidence of learning through classroom discussion, Socratic seminar, individual steps leading to a larger product, such as plans, research, practice with rhetorical modes and devices, drafts, annotation of texts, proper completion of rhetorical triangles, and fluency of writing.

TOTAL

100%

The grading scale will be as follows:

90-above	= A
80-89	= B
70-79	= C
60-69	= D
0- 59	= F

AP Requirement Regarding the AP Exam: Students are not required to take the AP exam in the spring which will cost approximately \$92 (there are waivers for students who cannot afford it); however since the entire objective of this class is to prep for this test, students will be required to take the Mock Exam that I will be administering approximately two weeks prior to the actual exam (end of April). If the student is unable to take the exam on the to-be-determined-date or block of 5 class periods, then other arrangements will be made, and they will take an alternative test.

The reason for the Mock Exam: Statistics have proven that students who have taken a practice AP exam that mimics the exam they will be taking do exceedingly better on average than those who take their first AP exam on the designated day by the College Board. It is my goal to give you (the student) the best preparation regarding your analytical skills throughout the year as well as familiarity regarding what the testing situation will be.

2nd SEMESTER: Opportunity for a Grade Increase: If you choose to take the AP Language & Composition exam in May and you receive (scores are delivered in July) a “3”, the grade you earned during the second semester will be increased one grade percentage (i.e. earned a “C”, and with the AP score of a “3”, your grade will increase to a “B”). If you receive a 4 on the exam, the grade you earned during the second semester will be increased by two grade percentages, and three grade percentages if you earn a 5 on the AP exam in AP Language.

Classroom Policies:

Retesting/Essay Rewrites: One retest/rewrite is possible for each test/essay given in class. The student *must* request it and take it within 10 school days of the original test/essay given/assigned. The best score will be given to the student. This does however exclude the FINAL given during Finals week at the end of the semester and the Mock AP Test taken in April.

Scribe: As students who have busy lives that may require you to miss class from time to time; a scribe of each day’s activities will be posted at the end of each school day on Ms. Ables’ blog – www.msablesclassroom.com. It is the responsibility of the student to see what they have missed, communicate with a fellow classmate and pick up any materials that were distributed in class. To see past scribes, click on the “Scribe” tab in the menu on the blog and scroll to the date of your absence(s).

Tardy Policy: In accordance with SHS’s policy, if a student has four unexcused tardies, they will receive SHS disciplinary action to be determined by the administration.

Absences: When a student has an EXCUSED absence (school activity/sick), they have **TWO** school weeks (10 days) to make up any quizzes/tests and turn in any homework. After this grace period has passed, make-up work will not be accepted and will be entered as a ZERO (0). When you turn in excused work, place it in the Late/Excused Basket as well and label at the top *EXCUSED* and the reason for the absence, otherwise it will be marked as *LATE*.

If a student has an UNEXCUSED absence, all homework due on the day of the absence will be considered late (**50% off earned score**). Any work that was missed can only be made up within the next **10 days** for partial credit. After the grace period has passed, no other assignments/tests/quizzes will be accepted for a grade.

If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to find out what was missed during the days they were gone. **“How do I find out what I missed?”**

1. **Check the scribe online at www.msablesclassroom.com**
2. **Check with fellow classmates who were present.**

3. *If you ask Miss Ables, she will refer you to #1 and #2.*

Late Work: See UNEXCUSED absence

Misbehavior Consequences: Simply being a respectful member of the class is a requirement of AP Language & Composition. If you choose to misbehave in class (excessive talking, disrespect toward classmate, environment, or teacher, etc) which causes a disruption in class, you will be removed from the classroom and the necessary discipline will be given by an administrator.

Plagiarism and/or Cheating: First offense will result in an F (0) for the assignment and a call to parents. The second offense will result in an F for the course.

Hall Passes/Bathroom: Permission must be given from the teacher in order to leave the room.

Required Supplies:

*pencils/pens

*highlighters

*Post-Its

*1 spiral/composition notebook to be reserved exclusively for Current Events

*iPad (charged daily)

Syllabus:

A Variety of Nonfiction essays, articles and speeches

Related pieces of art, music, cartoons, advertisements, television, films, etc

Weekly Latin/Greek Roots Quizzes

Weekly Vocabulary Quizzes

Rhetorical Analysis

Speeches (2nd semester)

Reading: *The Adventures of Huck Finn* (possible other titles will be added)

Research Paper

Rhetorical Devices

By choosing to enroll for AP Language & Composition, you will have the opportunity to gain between 2, 3 or 4 college credits that may be applied to your desired 2 or 4 year college. It is your responsibility to determine whether the colleges you are interested will accept credit when you pass the AP test in the spring (most do, but not all). Simply go to your specific college's website and search for college transfer AP grades. You will be able to easily determine how many credits you would receive with a passing AP score.

SAVE THE DATE

Date of the AP Language & Composition Exam: **8 am on Wednesday, May 16th (2018)**

THE BLOG/WEBSITE: Ms. Ables' Classroom – www.msablesclassroom.com

Ms. Ables' Classroom blog is the primary destination for information about goings-on in the classroom and contains a wealth of resources to keep you up-to-date, informed and prepared for all things AP Language. Bookmark it!





For Parents and Student:

By signing below, I am stating that I have read the above syllabus for the AP Language & Composition class. I am also aware that my student is NOT required (but encouraged) to take the AP Language & Composition exam that the College Board offers on May 16, 2018; however, I accept that my student will be responsible for taking the Mock Exam given prior to it in April/beginning of May to help prepare for the exam.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date