

AP Language really made me grow up as a student. The class educated me about current events and taught me how to organize and edit my own pieces. Believe it or not, in college, you're on your own, because no one is here to guide you every step of the way until the due date. It helps to already have experience and confidence in your writing abilities.

**Betsey Smith
Graduated 2009
Freshman UK**

I can honestly say that AP Language was one of the most beneficial courses I took throughout all of high school. It's more than just an English class, it's a class that reforms the way you think and how you address issues presented in ALL classes. You learn how to articulate your thoughts more effectively and you improve your ability, or lack there of, on analyzing written works. I draw on this class almost all the time, I couldn't recommend it more. It'll be difficult while you're taking it, but you'll thank yourself when all is said and done.

Madeleine Ricks
Class of 2009
Freshman - Louisiana State University

AP Language changed my life. Seriously, it changes the way you read and write. It teaches you how to harness and express your thoughts in an educated and coherent way. It was a challenge while taking it but once I stepped into my college English class and was given a book full of material and authors I had already read, assigned papers I knew how to write (one that I had actually already written), I felt completely prepared. AP Language was one of the hardest but one of my favorite classes I have ever taken. I am sure I will continue to pull from the knowledge I gained in that class through out the rest of my college career.

**Brittany Esposito
Class of 2009
Freshman Murray State University**

AP Language was probably the most valuable course I took in high school in terms of preparing me for college. Before I took it, I thought I knew how to write; I thought I was a good writer. Turns out, however, there was so much more to writing than I ever dreamed. My first semester of college, I didn't take a writing class because I couldn't fit it into my schedule. Needless to say, I was a little nervous about turning in my first college level paper. When I started working on it, however, I realized that it was just an analysis paper and I applied the formula--it turns out, you can apply the formulas you learn in AP Language to any paper you write, and if you execute, you will get a good grade every time. While some of my classmates stressed over writing papers, I felt more relaxed and in my element. While you're taking the class, it seems impossible; you'll want to scream at times and you'll wonder why you even decided to take the class, but it is more than worth it in the long run. I'm glad I did the work in high school, rather than waited until college to learn how to write.

Natalie Smith
Class of 2009
Freshman, Bellarmine University

Because I took AP Language, I grew as not only a writer, but as a reader. Mrs. Hill taught me how to read effectively and how to write at a college level. I took AP Language as a senior in high school and it was literally the most beneficial course I've

ever taken. College is more laid back and easy going but the work is way more stressful and rigorous. Since I took AP Language, I feel like I can handle everything better. My first college paper was an analysis of a reading we were assigned. I was nervous as could be but I used what AP Language taught me and I achieved an A on that paper. For my English class last semester, our final was literally a ten page paper where we had to relate a real-life experience to a reading we had been assigned at the beginning of the year. I thought it would be nearly impossible to write ten pages on a five page reading and something in my life. When I sat down to write, I basically had a nervous breakdown and decided I couldn't do it. After a few days of writing and erasing many paragraphs, I remembered what I took out of AP Language, read and annotate efficiently then come back to it and write. Needless to say, I finished english last semester with an A.

I can remember many times when I wanted to just break down and cry when I continued to get the same score on my essays even though I thought I did better. This course consumed a lot of my time senior year but now college isn't as stressful for me. When you're in AP Language, you honestly want to rip your hair out but trust me, in the end, it's worth it.

Emily Holbrook
Class of 2009
Freshman, Eastern Kentucky University

I cannot stress how important AP Language was to my growth as not only a writer, but also a thinker. I came into the class oblivious to the underlying messages that existed in so many of the stories I had previously read before taking the class. But through the thought provoking activities, and insightful pieces of literature we completed throughout the year, I can now pick up on the subliminal messages and the overall theme of everything I now read.

If none of that sounds appealing to you, there are two more huge things that AP Language has done for me. I will state the facts for you: In college, you are going to be writing a tremendous amount. You will be bogged down by five page essays and 10 minute speeches and numerous other written assignments that will dominate your time. I remember my writing days before AP language, it was slow and tedious. But after coming out of the class, I was able to pump out an essay in less then thirty minutes. The greatest benefit of AP Language, as far as writing goes, is that it teaches you to write at not only a sophisticated level, but in a reasonable time period. Thus, you'll be spending less time on papers, but still writing quality work, which is something everyone can agree is a huge benefit.

The other thing I have taken from AP Language is that I have had the privilege of completely skipping out on English classes in college. That's right; I was done with English classes the moment I left North. Since I received AP credit from AP Language, I am exempt from any Language requirements in college. This has opened up the opportunity to get other required courses out of the way, so I will not have to take more later in my college career. I still have done a large amount of writing, though.

AP Language is an absolute necessity, and I stand by that statement because of all it has done for me. And it did not hurt that I had a very good teacher!

ALSO, I forget to mention that I am already a sophomore in college, and will be a junior after this semester (I graduated in 2009 from North), because of the credit hours I received from AP Language and other AP courses, so maybe that will help sway your opinion ;)

Tyler Geers

Freshman (Technically a sophomore)
Louisville Speed School of Engineering

For me AP English Language was one of those classes that at the time, I didn't enjoy the amount of work we had to do, but now I see how much it prepared me for college level English. Because I got a 4 on the exam I got 6 hours of credit, 3 hours for English 100 and 3 hours elective, which is something that helps so much because it's two less classes I have to take. AP English really exposed me to the amount of reading and writing a college level course will require as well as the level of reading and writing I need to be on. The course really helped me learn to critically think and analyze literature and write clear, informed essays. If you want proof, I took an Honors English 200 course last semester and got an A on my final paper (a 10 page essay!) and ended up with a B in the class. Hope this helps!

Erin Stamper
Freshman at Western Kentucky University

AP Language has been invaluable to me, not only in college but also for my senior year of high school. The ability to quickly write a coherent essay is useful not only on all AP tests, but on the ACT and SAT, as well as for college exams. The class exposed me to great writing - from well-known authors to my peers - and as a result I became a much better writer and reader, as finding rhetorical devices and becoming a better reader are parts of the course as well. The readings in the course are diverse and interesting, as they apply to real life. As an added bonus, the success I achieved on the AP Language Exam allowed me to place out of one of the most rigorous required classes at my college, allowing me to explore other options. AP Lang was one of the best courses I took in high school, and though it was sometimes tough, it was well worth it in the end, and I know it will continue to help me in the future.

Katie Wampler
NOHS Class of '09
University of Virginia

Taking AP Language was easily the smartest decision I made regarding my high school career. The course not only taught me how to effectively convey my ideas on paper, but how to accurately analyze the rhetoric of multiple mediums. Although the class might have been difficult and sometimes overwhelming while I was taking it, not a day goes by now that I'm in college where I'm not grateful for this class. My major requires me to write an analysis over a different film and its rhetoric each week, a task that might have been too much had I not already been prepped with AP Language.

Not only was AP Language academically helpful, but I really do have some of my greatest memories from that class. It can be a challenge, but it's also an amazingly fun class in which each student is encouraged to speak up and share their opinion, sometimes in creative and hilarious ways. I definitely recommend taking this course because you will grow as a writer, a reader, and as a person.

Rachel Sowell
The Ohio State University