

AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading and Activities – Summer 2023

Dear AP Students and Parents,

First, congratulations on accepting the challenge of taking an AP-level composition course. We are looking forward to working with you and to helping you achieve your potential as writers and thinkers.

Here is a very brief introduction to the course. According to the College Board’s course description, AP English Language and Composition “engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes.” While this may sound like the previous two years of high school, we will explore various rhetorical approaches that are likely to be new and unfamiliar to you.

To help prepare you for our exploration of rhetoric in the fall (and, ultimately the AP Language and Composition Exam in May 2024), you will be reading and writing this summer. This packet will outline your assignments and what is expected of you as AP students. Students will be required to utilize their Google Classroom accounts over the summer. All summer reading assignments will be completed on this platform. Use code **x6ayggq** to join the class.

Finally, enjoy your summer! There is work to be done, and undoubtedly you are looking ahead to the fall of 2023, as well, but we encourage you to have fun this summer, too. Take time to relax and spend time with friends and loved ones so that you can come back to Lee County High School ready for all of the challenges that await you during your junior year.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,

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Part 1 – Terminology

You are responsible for knowing all of the terms on the attached sheet. Some of these terms you know and have used in the past, but many may be new. You should know these terms, be prepared for a quiz on these terms within the first few classes, and use any applicable terms in your online summer reading discussions.

Part 2 – Summer Reading

You will read *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote this summer. You may be able to find a pdf of the novel online; however, we suggest that you either procure a hard copy or an e-book so that you can more easily navigate the book. To answer the discussion prompts, you will have to locate and cite specific textual evidence to substantiate your claims. Moreover, you will need to have a more-than-cursory understanding of the novel in order to be successful on the discussion topics. Please read carefully and closely, annotating when needed. You will complete an in-class essay over the novel within the first few days of class, so be prepared!

Part 3 – Online Discussion Board

Over the course of the summer, four discussion prompts (one for each section of the novel) will be posted in Google Classroom. For each of the prompts, you are required to the following:

- 1.) Answer each prompt with a primary post consisting of 2-3 well-developed paragraphs. Your responses should be concise, yet should fully address the prompt. All responses should be AP worthy work; responses that are lazy, undeveloped, or that lack significant thought and effort will either suffer point deductions or will not be accepted at all.
- 2.) Respond to two other classmates' posts. You are engaging in a discussion so your replies should be thought-provoking and may even ask someone to clarify his/her point. One sentence responses such as "I agree," "Why do you say that?" and "You're wrong!" are not acceptable. Your purpose is to create discussion, so choose your words wisely!

Student responses will be scored using the "Grading of Writing" criteria listed in the student syllabus posted in the Google Classroom. All responses must be posted before the first day of school. Late work will not be accepted.

AP Language and Composition Summer Vocabulary

Rhetorical Terms

- Audience
- Concession
- Connotation
- Context
- Counterargument
- Ethos
- Logos
- Occasion
- Pathos
- Persona
- Polemic
- Propaganda
- Purpose
- Refutation
- Rhetoric
- Rhetorical appeals
- Rhetorical triangle (Aristotelian triangle)
- SOAPS
- Speaker
- Subject
- Text

Style Elements

- Alliteration
- Allusion
- Anaphora
- Antimetabole
- Antithesis
- Archaic Diction
- Asyndeton
- Cumulative Sentence
- Hortative Sentence
- Imperative Sentence
- Inversion
- Juxtaposition
- Metaphor
- Oxymoron
- Parallelism
- Periodic Sentence
- Personification
- Rhetorical Question
- Synecdoche
- Zeugma