

# AP<sup>®</sup> English Language and Composition

Summer 2023

Instructor:

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The primary purpose of **AP English Language and Composition** is to provide students with a complex reading and writing course which prepares them to encounter sophisticated texts with confidence, independence, and creativity. The course centers on the rhetoric of nonfiction texts. Over the course of the year, we will be reading texts that will prepare you to take the AP English Language and Composition Exam, where skills developed by close reading are essential.

Individual AP Language teachers will send home a syllabus at the beginning of the year that will list the remaining required texts for their course; however, a few texts listed below may be included in the curriculum.

- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

In AP English Language and Composition, the following skill development will be emphasized:

- Close reading analysis of rhetorical strategies used in a variety of non-fiction
- Identifying methods of argumentation
- Composing sound arguments
- Using outside sources to support arguments

## Summer activities that will prepare you for your AP Language experience:

- Read chapters 1-13 of *Thank You for Arguing, Third Edition: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion* by Jay Heinrichs. This book can be [purchased](#), borrowed from the [library](#), or found online through [this link](#), and it will provide you with a solid foundation for the course.
  - Consider how you see argumentation in your own life, as well as in what you read and write.
  - Take notes while you read, so you can remember and refer back to the key concepts. Use this [annotation guide](#) to help you identify key ideas and concepts in each chapter.
  - **This assignment will be due September 8, 2023.** Although this due date is two weeks after school begins, you are strongly encouraged to complete this assignment over the summer.
- Increase your knowledge of rhetoric and familiarize yourself with the terms you will need to know for the course by reviewing the information on the following websites: [grammar.about.com](http://grammar.about.com) and <http://rhetoric.byu.edu/>
- Read independently from your favorite news sources as well as alternative news sources to expand your understanding of rhetoric and argument.
- Expose yourself to the richness of language in film, music, plays, and other media.
- Enrich your vocabulary. Membean accounts stay active all summer.

If you have any questions over the summer, please email your instructor.