

AP Language and Composition: Summer Assignment 2024

Welcome to AP Lang. This summer's assignment is designed to give you an introduction to the type of assignments you will experience and the degree of close analysis necessary to succeed throughout the course. AP Lang engages students in becoming skilled analysts of prose written in/for a variety of contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. This class requires you to delve deeply into the readings and assignments, to question the writer's intent, purpose and bias, and to grapple with the issues the writer presents.

Documentary Viewing

Watch a documentary before the first day of school. Search for and watch these documentaries through any means available to you: Netflix, Hulu, HBO, Youtube, Kanopy, the public library, etc.

Select a documentary from the list below:

- The Beatles: Get Back
- Super-Size Me
- Free Solo
- An Inconvenient Truth

Grading Guide

You are not required to turn in notes or write a response, although it may be helpful for you to jot a few things down in preparation for an assignment the first week of school. One of your first assignments will be to break down the rhetorical situation of your documentary, so you should have a strong knowledge of it and be prepared to write about it in depth.

How do you analyze the rhetorical situation?

#1 Analyzing the Author

- Why is this person the "right" person to write this piece?
- What are his/her credentials?
- What are his/her beliefs, needs, and/or values?
- What is her/her relationship with the audience?

#2 Analyze the Audience

- Who would likely read this source?
- Who would be interested in or opposed to this message?
- How is the message tailored towards the audience?
- What are the audience's beliefs, needs, and/or values?

#3 Analyze the Context

- What was happening locally, nationally, or globally at the time?
- What relevant historical events might have influenced the situation?
- What, if any, specific events are mentioned?
- Why is this message or argument appropriate for this time period?

#4 Analyze the Exigence

- What was the catalyst for the author?
- What event, need, or concern does this passage address?
- What is a particular choice the writer makes appropriate for this occasion?

#5 Analyze the Purpose

- What was the motivation behind the work?
- What does the writer hope to achieve?
- What is the author calling the audience to do?
- Why does the author make this choice?

#6 Analyze the Argument

- What choices does the author make to create a convincing argument?
- What does the argument reveal about the author's beliefs or values?
- Why is this message appropriate for this audience on this occasion?
- What happens if the audience listens to the message? What if they don't?