

# AP Language and Composition

## Summer Assignment

### 2025-2026

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AP Language and Composition! Yes! Great choice!

This course is designed to model an introductory college-level composition course in both content and rigor. In this course, we will be studying mostly non-fiction texts and analyzing the rhetorical strategies and modes of discourse that writers and speakers employ to communicate ideas. Despite what some may think, AI is not an adequate replacement for meaningful rhetoric (we'll talk about this, too!).

At all stages of this course, I will remind you that reading is cool, sandwiches are the most versatile meal out there (they should always be without tomatoes), and that Monday is the best day of the week. More importantly, I will remind you that *this is a college course* and I promise to hold you to those standards.

With that in mind, you are expected to complete a summer assignment. The details are attached. For additional resources and a digital copy of this packet with live links, visit <https://sites.google.com/eischools.org/augelloei/ap-lang>.

If you have questions for me during the summer, please email [michael.augello@eischools.org](mailto:michael.augello@eischools.org) and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I'm so excited to work with you next year!

*Mr. Augello*

## Assignment 1: Independent Research - Opinion/Editorial

Much of this course focuses on not just determining what someone says, but HOW they say it and why. Free Response Question (FRQ) 2 on the AP Lang exam is a rhetorical analysis essay that asks students to determine the choices an author makes to convey a message.

Your task:

Find, save, and **print** a published opinion/editorial piece of at least 600 words on a topic that is of interest to you.

### Some things to remember:

- Article should be from this calendar year (2025)
- Article can be on any subject (Pop culture, sports, politics, education, etc.)
  - There are no bonus points for sophistication - an op-ed about foreign conflict can work just as well as an article that crowns who is the greatest of all time in a sport
- Article must come from a reputable publication (no high school newspapers, no unaffiliated personal blog sites, etc.)
  - Think big newspapers, magazines, or online publications like *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, etc.
- What if you find the PERFECT article that is from a good source, interests you, and is perfect for the assignment, BUT is behind a pay-wall?
  - Let me know! The school has access to many publications through our VRC. I will help you find it as long everything is done in a timely fashion

**Article should be printed and brought to class during the first week of school.**

**BRING PRINTED ARTICLE TO CLASS WITH YOU ON TUESDAY, 9/9/25**

You are not writing anything for this part of the assignment! We will do that in class. You are ONLY finding the article.

## Assignment 2: *In Cold Blood*

Read **Parts 1, 2, and 3** of *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote (p.1-248) and complete the following writing assignment that is loosely based on Free Response Question (FRQ) 3 of the AP exam:

The power and allure of crime nonfiction is the ability to draw the reader in with a full dose of reality. Good crime nonfiction succeeds in **“present[ing] a perfectly objective and disinterested account of the events of a case.”** Excellent nonfiction allows readers to decide for themselves - with no direct or indirect influence from the author - whether the perpetrators are sympathetic and/or the crime is understandable.

Write an essay that argues your position on the extent to which Truman Capote's nonfiction novel *In Cold Blood* should be deemed “excellent nonfiction” by these standards.

### While reading:

- It's a good idea to keep some notes. Will I check for notes? Absolutely not, but it is far easier to jot down some page numbers, interesting quotes, and thoughts as you read than it is to sift through 250 pages later on
- Read with purpose! Understand what the prompt is asking you and read the story through that lens. Constantly remind yourself of what the prompt is asking

### Some things to remember about the assignment:

- I'm looking for 2-3 double spaced pages
- Use MLA formatting (the real deal: heading, header, double spaced, Works Cited, etc. - use the [Purdue OWL](#) if you need a refresher)
  - Here's the proper WC entry that you can use:
    - Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. Vintage Books, 1965.
- Your writing should demonstrate knowledge of *the entire* text
  - This means the textual evidence that you use should be taken from different parts of the novel, not just the first 20 pages
  - Also - you are ONLY reading the first three parts of the story. We are saving Part 4 for class - there should be no discussion of or evidence from here!
- Plagiarism and anything in that same realm (any form of AI, etc.) is obviously not permitted (and BOY would it be a bad first impression!)

**This assignment will be submitted to Google Classroom at some point in the first two weeks of school.**

**ESSAY DUE CLASS TIME ON \_\_\_\_\_**