AP Lang – Requirements

Students will need to reach the level of writing in these examples to pass the AP test. The expectation is to hit this level by December. The course also includes heavy reading of speeches, and non-fiction text, and novels. Over the course of the year, all these combined could equal about 3-5 books total.

The writing samples are available to be viewed as PDFs.

Food trucks and food courts are examples of the growing mobile food service trend. Particularly popular in bustling cities, people have been operating out of food trucks for a long time. However, the industry is currently being held back by laws and regulations that make it hard for operators to continue these businesses without being fined or shut down. With laws stating that mobile food services cannot be set up within a certain distance of standing restaurants and the requirement of paying for parking meters, many entrepreneurs struggle to maintain their operation. While many argue that distance from a restaurant should be a factor to consider when regulating mobile food service establishments, they fail to realize that the most important factors are the tourism that the establishment may bring, the cleanliness of the establishment, and the diversity of the new industry.

Some laws prohibit mobile food establishments from setting up within a certain distance from standing restaurants and many agree with this sentiment. Source D claims that because restaurant owners "decided to be there every day of the year" and "pay taxes", food trucks should not be allowed to operate in the vicinity of restaurants. They believe that restaurant owners have made a commitment to the area and mobile food services would be interrupting their business. However, restaurants and mobile food services are able to co-exist and bring in revenue for the city if food trucks and food carts are able to operate on less regulations. Source F explains that food trucks "get customers out on the street and create a sense of community." While restaurants are popular and good for business, the indoor-seating makes it hard for outsiders to see the gathering of consumers. Mobile food services create a public social scene that draws in the attention of people who are visiting the city. The welcome scenery attracts more tourists to the city and will reel in more customers for restaurants nearby in return as people come back to visit the city. The tourism the food trucks provide can also be ensured by the cleanliness that regulations should hold mobile food services to.

Cleaniless is an expectation that every food service is held to, but it is particularly important for mobile food services because they operate outdoors. Source B states that "all vendors must keep a 50 foot radius around the truck clean" and "must provide a trash receptable within three feet." While tourism of food trucks is good for the city, it is equally as important to ensure that the public is kept clean. Having these regulations invite newcomers to eat outdoors and experience the city in its fullness without being disturbed by trash that may be left over from mobile food servies. Keeping the mobile food services clean also allows them to grow in the industry and create diversity in the culinary world.

The growing industry of mobile food service is an opportunity for diversity in food world. Source A states that "it is far easier to secure start-up capital for a cart than a restaurant." Mobile food service provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to explore new ways of offering food to the public and allows them to grow under a lower budget than opening a brick-and-mortar restaurant. This new method of exploration encourages new owners to grow in the industry and publicize their food in the streets. As the industry grows, tourism would also increase and bring in revenue for the city.

The mobile food service industry continues to fight for a place in the culinary world as they protest against strict regulations that stifle their growth. Many say that standing restaurants made a commitment to their area, so food trucks should not be allowed to set up around them, but they do not realize that possible tourism, cleanliness, and diversity are the important factors in regulating mobile food service. If the industry is allowed to grow and partner with restaurants, cities will see more revenue brought in by the food industry than ever before.

What value should we place on possessions? Regardless of much emphasis we *should* put on them, it's evident that as Americans we put too much. In the words of Jimmy Santiago Baca, "In America we value possessions," which feels truer today than ever.

The trends in America are one cultural aspect that support Baca's point. While socities throughout the history of the world have had trends, they are faster and bigger than before in America. Walk into any high school or middle school classroom in the country and you will see at least a couple girls with Stanley cups. This trend is relatively new (replacing Hydroflasks from a few years back), but it's guarenteed to die out a couple years from now and be replaced by something else. Is it bad to buy a trendy cup? Not at all, but it shows what we value as a society. We buy massive amounts of products that we don't need, showing that we place more value, and status, on possesions than we should.

What would the mental health of a country that puts too much stock in possessions look like? It would have soaring anxiety and depression rates, which is just what we're seeing in America today. When you focus your life on something shallow and surface-level (such as the things that you own), you lack a sense of purpose and meaning in your life. Stuff can't ever truly fulfill you; in fact, it just ends up distracting you from the things that can. By continually focusing on surface-level things, it's harder to build deep, meaningful connections with other people. Since we've fallen out of the habit of doing this as a society, people are lacking the intimacy and connection that we all crave as human beings. We think that having the right car or the right house will get us the approval that we desire, but they will only ever satisfy us on a temporal level.

America is indisputably one of the wealthiest nations in the world. Other countries prefer our money to theirs for its stability, and we have one of the strongest economies in the world. Despite this, there are still hundreds of thousands of starving people in our country. Families across the nation struggle to put food on the table. If this doesn't prove that we value possessions too much, what would? We value possessions to the point that we've forgotten about generosity. Sure, we might buy Girl Scout cookies, or give to the annual school fundraiser; but large scale giving isn't a part of many people's lives. This demonstrates just how attached we are to our stuff. This isn't to say that no one in America is generous; there are many good people out there who give of their time and money to help others, just as there are those who focus on deeper things than possesions in contrast to the previous paragraph. Still, the general trend isn't one of selfless giving.

In conclusion, Baca's claim that "In America we value possessions" is undeniably accurate. It can be seen in the trends that pop up, in the growing lack of meaning in people's lives, and in the startling number of poor for such a rich country. However, these aren't signs to give up on our nation. Instead, they are signs to rally together, to inspire each other, and to one by one shift the value away from our possessions and to one another.

Simu Liu wrote a memoir about his bittersweet experience as a Chinese immigrant. Liu effectively delivers his experiences as an immgrant child while also allowing the audience to empathize with his story through his smooth and metiuclous implementation of rhetorical devices such as diction, imagery, and repetition.

One rhetorical device that can be easily identified in the passage is diction. One notable use of diciton that stood out to me was in paragraph 6, where he modified the word cult, and added a y to the end of it, to make it "cult-y." First of all, this change allows for the word to be more easily understood by an audience who did not have the experience. He described the situation in a more relatable way that the audience would be able to easily decipher. The already well-known word of cult, with a y attached to the end, indicating that is an adjective meant to describe the situation, made it easy to understand the feeling of the atmosphere that he was in. Another example of diction is "this man" or just "man," repeated throughout the latter part of the passage. This is important to pay attention to as it illuminates the relationship Liu had with his father, or rather, the bitter attitude Liu had towards his father as he felt he was taking away from his life and current family. Calling his father "man" indicates that Liu did not know his father as someone who, from my perspectice, you throw ball with or recieve giant hugs from. Instead, this man was foreign to him, which he elaborated on in paragraph 14. Lastly, the use of the word man could have an ironic interpretation, as it is often a term used to describe a somewhat untouchable person of great importance. In paragraph 11, consisting of one sentence, the satirical expression of his father as being someone who can accomplish great and difficult tasks such as "bringing [him] to the promised land of Canada" reveals Liu's true attitude towards his father, which is a lack of respect by undermining him.

Another rhetorical device used that makes the writing style of the author stronger is imagery. In paragraph 8 of the expept from Liu's memoir, he described a big welcome sign. He used all caps for the "welcome sign" to illustrate in the minds of the audience what the sign looked like. He follows this method of capitalization by describing the sign as having giant letter and hung on their door to further reveal what the sign looked like, which is a great use of imagery. Additionally, imagery is utilized in the following paragraph. He describes the meal that was partaken in celebration of his family's immigration to Canada. Extensive detail is used in this paragraph to describe what the feast looked like and the specifics of the contents of the meal through adjectives such as white to describe the mushrooms, sliced, to indicate the type of pork, and so on. Again the imagery used here to describe the feast gives the audience an accurate represenation of what the feast may have been like or looked like, given that the audience reading this portion was not there to experience the feast.

Lastly, repetition is a very important and notable rhetorical device used in this snippet of Liu's memoir. As discussed above, Liu identified and described his father simply as "this man." This phrase and word choice is repeated throughout paragraphs 11 through 14, and the use of repetition in this instance has great significance. Again, as previously mentioned, the use of the word choice "man: shows how there was a lack of an emotional connection between the father and the son. Reptition further intensifies this effect. Repeating this man, rather than identifying his father as a man once, emphasizes the fact that Liu will *never* see his "real" father as more than just a man. So, to conlude, Liu creates a very well written analysis of his experience through his use of diction, imagery, and repetition. These rhetorical devices in turn, make the situation easier for the audience to understand and identify with.