Advanced Placement Language & Composition
Pre-Course Assignment 2026-27

Dr. Michelle Golden & Mrs. Kristen Stamey
Jefferson High School
michelle.golden@jeffcityschools.org
kristen.stamey@jeffcityschools.org

Welcome to AP Language & Composition! This course is an examination of how writers write & how writing contains intentional techniques which promote the writer's purpose. This course demands constant writing and skilled analytical reading to uncover what language is all about. The rigor and demands of this course serve to prepare you for the AP test in May, as well as engage you in a discovery of the various ways language can shape society.

In order to prepare for AP Language & Composition, you will need to read Jay Heinrichs' *Thank You For Arguing*. We hope this equips you with the essential tools to dissect and craft compelling arguments. It's not just about identifying rhetorical devices; it's about understanding *why* and *how* arguments persuade. This book makes the art of rhetoric accessible and engaging, giving you a head start in analyzing texts, developing your own persuasive writing, and ultimately acing the AP exam. Think of it as your secret weapon for mastering the power of language.

-Dr. Golden & Mrs. Stamey

Assignment 1: {required} Students will obtain a hard copy of Jay Heinrichs' *Thank You For Arguing (4th edition).* Please read and annotate the Preface through Ch. 19 (preface - pg. 226) Be prepared to turn in your book on the first day of class. Keep in mind that some of the topics Henrichs uses for examples are just that: examples. Additionally, it is imperative that you read the chapters in their entirety, as we will be working with these concepts for the remainder of the school year. *There will be a test over the book during the first week of class - as well as a writing activity.* Read & annotate carefully! You may want to use the reading questions to guide your focus (linked here). You don't need to answer the questions (unless you want to), but you should annotate the book for these items as well as make note of any other personal reactions/thoughts/questions, etc as you go..

*please email us if you have difficulty securing a copy of the required text. We have a limited supply of books we can loan out.

Assignment 2: {optional/recommended} Read a memoir or nonfiction book of your choice.