

AP Lang Summer Assignment

Welcome to your junior year and AP English Language and Composition (AP Lang)!

AP Lang is a college-level course designed to mirror the kind of introductory composition course many students take during their freshman year of college. Students who earn a qualifying score on the AP English Language exam in May may earn college credit and satisfy a freshman composition requirement at many colleges and universities. **However, AP Lang is valuable for far more than potential college credit.**

At its core, AP Lang is a course in critical thinking, communication, and argument. In a world saturated with advertisements, social media, political messaging, opinion journalism, algorithms, influencers, and AI-generated content, the ability to analyze information critically is more important than ever. This course will challenge you to think beyond *what* a message says and begin asking *why* it says it, *how* it is constructed, and *who* stands to benefit from it.

You will learn to analyze how writers, speakers, and institutions use language to persuade audiences, establish credibility, appeal to emotion, shape public opinion, and sometimes manipulate information. You will examine bias, evaluate evidence, question assumptions, and learn to recognize how argument functions in the real world.

Just as importantly, you will learn to develop thoughtful arguments of your own—using carefully selected evidence, clear reasoning, and strong rhetorical choices to communicate your ideas effectively. While we will read some fiction, AP Lang focuses primarily on nonfiction, persuasion, rhetoric, and argumentation. Throughout the year, you will become a stronger reader, writer, thinker, and consumer of information.

Students enrolling in AP English Language and Composition are expected to complete the following summer assignment in preparation for the school year. This assignment is designed to introduce some of the foundational concepts and skills we will revisit throughout the course and on the AP Exam in May.

The more time and effort you invest in the material this summer, the more confident and prepared you will feel when the course begins. I am excited to work with you next year! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at adrude@huffmanisd.net.

Part 1: Survey

I would like the opportunity to learn a little more about you. For the first portion of the summer assignment, please complete the [AP Lang Summer Assignment Part 1 Google Form](#). To ensure smooth access and submission, please complete the form using your school Gmail account. This will count as one of your *first daily grades*.

You will have a **test** the second week of school over the provided vocabulary, course acronyms, and *The Awakening*. To prepare for the test, review the terms carefully, **ESPECIALLY** the acronyms, and take notes as you view background materials and read the novel.

Part 2: Course Overview and Vocabulary

- Watch this video to learn more about AP Lang and what to expect in this course.
 WHAT Is AP® Lang? (And WHY You Should Take It!)
- Review the link here for basic course vocabulary. [Quizlet Link](#)
- Students should also become familiar with the following acronyms: SPACECAT & CHORES.
 - Rhetorical Analysis: SPACECAT
 - Speaker
 - Purpose
 - Audience
 - Context
 - Exigence
 - Choices
 - Appeals
 - Tone
 - Argument Evidence: CHORES
 - Current Events
 - History
 - Outside Knowledge
 - Readings
 - Experiences
 - Sports/Science

Part 3: Required Reading (View Background Info and Read Novel)

- For this portion of the summer assignment, read *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin.
- Review this Canva presentation carefully for background/supporting information:
 - [The Awakening Introduction](#)
- See this document for a list of Creole terms and definitions to help you understand the dialect in *The Awakening*:
 - [The Awakening Vocabulary](#)
- Students are strongly encouraged to annotate or keep notes while reading, as this will be helpful for early class discussions and writing assignments.
- Take notes on the following:
 - *The Awakening* Introduction Slides
 - Key scenes and the characters' names and actions in those scenes
 - The key conflicts of the main characters
 - The key plot details of the story
 - The basic themes of *The Awakening*
- Also consider how Chopin develops an argument about identity—especially the tension between individual desire and social norms. Draft a response to the following question:
 - *What argument does Chopin make about the conflict between personal identity and social norms?*

Part 4: Enrichment Options

One component of the AP Lang exam asks students to develop an argument using relevant evidence drawn from history, current events, literature, science, or personal experience. Strong arguments are built not only on writing skill, but on thoughtful engagement with the world around us.

This summer, begin paying closer attention to the information you consume. Listen to a thought-provoking podcast, watch a documentary, read a nonfiction article or essay, or explore a current issue that interests you. As you engage with information, practice thinking critically: What is the creator's purpose? What argument is being made? What evidence is used? What perspectives or biases may be present?

Throughout the school year, we will analyze speeches, historical documents, opinion writing, and contemporary issues, so beginning to build your awareness now will only strengthen your success in the course.

Below, I have included a link to an active list of enrichment options. While these activities are optional, students are strongly encouraged to engage with at least one resource over the summer.

[Recommended Independent Enrichment Resources](#)