

AP Language and Composition

Summer Assignment

2026-2027

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 different stages of this course, I will remind you that clear writing is good writing, AP writing isn't all that different from some Food Network programs, and you can't just throw commas around wherever you want. 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 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. We'll do something similar with this.

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 (2026)
- 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 Wednesday, 9/9/26

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. While it should be obvious that good crime nonfiction succeeds in “present[ing] a perfectly objective and disinterested account of the events of a case,” *excellent* crime nonfiction is different. **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

The assignment itself:

- This is going to look a little different this year. How? This is going from an assignment completed totally at home to an assignment being completed partially at home and partially in class
- “*But Mr. Augello, does that mean I can’t work on the assignment until you give me more details? I’m a planner!*”
 - You can and should absolutely work on this assignment throughout the summer by (of course) reading Part 1, 2, and 3 of the novel and considering the prompt provided above
 - You are NOT writing this essay over the summer

***EXPECT THAT THE ESSAY WILL BE WRITTEN WITHIN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SCHOOL**