

# Introduction

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*An AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of diverse texts and becoming flexible, reflective writers of texts addressed to diverse audiences for diverse purposes. The reading and writing students do in the course should deepen and expand their understanding of how written language functions rhetorically: to communicate writers' intentions and elicit readers' responses in particular situations.*

To support these objectives, this *AP English Language and Composition Course and Exam Description* delineates the knowledge and skills colleges and universities typically expect students to demonstrate in order to receive credit for an introductory college composition course.

This publication is not a curriculum. Teachers create their own curricula by selecting and sequencing the texts and tasks that will enable students to develop the knowledge and skills outlined in this document. In some cases, teachers also need to meet certain state or local requirements within the AP curriculum they develop for their school. The objective of this publication is to provide teachers with clarity regarding the content and skills students should learn in order to qualify for college credit and placement. The AP Program recognizes that the real craft is in the skill with which teachers develop and deliver instruction.

Students develop the skills of rhetorical analysis and composition as they repeatedly practice analyzing others' arguments, then compose their own arguments. As a model for teachers, the course content and skills are presented in nine units. The objective of this unit structure is to respect new AP teachers' time by suggesting one possible sequence they can adapt rather than having to build from scratch.

An additional benefit is that these units enable the AP Program to provide interested teachers with free formative assessments—the Progress Checks—that they can assign their students at the end of each unit to gauge progress toward success on the AP Exam. However, experienced AP teachers who are satisfied with their current course organization and results should feel no pressure to adopt these units, which comprise an optional, not mandatory, sequence for this course.

Because these nine units only delineate the skills students should be developing across the AP English Language and Composition course but do not specify the content or themes students will study, teachers can assign a theme or title to each of the nine units (e.g., Humanity and Nature, Industry and Technology, Family and Community) or can dedicate multiple units to the same theme (e.g., Family and Community I, II, and III). This enables teachers to avail themselves of the scaffolded skill progressions detailed in each unit to help focus their students' learning and practice and then assign students the relevant Progress Checks.

## 1

**AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
AND COMPOSITION**

# Big Ideas and Enduring Understandings

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The big ideas serve as the foundation of the AP English Language and Composition course and enable students to create meaningful connections among course concepts. They are threads that run throughout the course, and revisiting them and applying them in a variety of contexts helps students to develop deeper conceptual understanding. Below are the big ideas of the course, along with the enduring understanding associated with each one:

**RHETORICAL SITUATION (RHS)**

**Enduring Understanding RHS-1:** Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.

**CLAIMS AND EVIDENCE (CLE)**

**Enduring Understanding CLE-1:** Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments.

**REASONING AND ORGANIZATION (REO)**

**Enduring Understanding REO-1:** Writers guide understanding of a text's lines of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence.

**STYLE (STL)**

**Enduring Understanding STL-1:** The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.

## UNITS

The course skills are organized within nine units that scaffold student development of the analysis and composition skills required for college credit. For each unit, the teacher selects a theme or topic and then chooses texts, typically short nonfiction pieces, that enable students to practice and develop the reading and writing skills for that unit.

Each unit culminates in a Progress Check made up of 1) a free-response question and scoring rubric for the teacher to administer in class or online and 2) online multiple-choice questions that provide each student with personalized feedback and the teacher with a class summary of skills for which students are on track for college credit and skills for which focus and practice are needed.

Pacing recommendations shown within the Course at a Glance and the unit guides provide suggestions for how to teach the required course content and administer the Progress Checks. The suggested class periods are based on a schedule in which the class meets five days a week for 45 minutes each day. While these recommendations have been made to aid planning, teachers should of course adjust the pacing based on the needs of their students, alternate schedules (e.g., block scheduling), or their school's academic calendar.

# Spiraling the Big Ideas

The following table shows how the big ideas spiral across units.

| Big Ideas                                                                                                                      | Unit 1 | Unit 2 | Unit 3 | Unit 4 | Unit 5 | Unit 6 | Unit 7 | Unit 8 | Unit 9 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <br><b>Rhetorical Situation</b><br><b>RHS</b> | ✓      | ✓      |        | ✓      |        |        | ✓      | ✓      |        |
| <b>Claims and Evidence</b><br><b>CLE</b>                                                                                       | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      |        | ✓      | ✓      |        | ✓      |
| <b>Reasoning and Organization</b><br><b>REO</b>                                                                                |        |        | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Style</b><br><b>STL</b>                                                                                                     |        |        |        |        | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      | ✓      |        |

# Course Skills

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Throughout the course, students will follow the pattern of reading others' arguments and then writing their own. Students will analyze what makes others' arguments convincing or confusing, engaging or dull, persuasive or powerless. They will then turn to the act of composition themselves, seeking to emulate effective argumentation they have encountered in their reading and analysis.

This pattern should be repeated in every unit of the course, ensuring students are moving back and forth between analysis of the arguments they read and composition of their own arguments.

Accordingly, the AP English Language and Composition skills consist of paired reading and writing skills. These skills will be the basis for the AP Exam questions. The unit guides in this publication provide additional detail about these skills through essential knowledge statements.

Other than some focused instruction on punctuation in Unit 7, the teaching of English grammar and mechanics is not the focus of this course. Students should be able to write complete sentences before beginning the class, and through frequent reading and analysis of the arguments of others and emulating such models in their own writing, students' proficiency in written English will increase during the course. When students write essays within the AP Exam, small grammatical errors typical of unrevised writing in a timed environment will not negatively impact the score. Performance is only hurt by grammatical errors that are so prevalent and significant as to interfere with communication.

More information about teaching these skills can be found in the Instructional Approaches section.



# AP English Language and Composition Skills

| BIG IDEAS                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RHS Rhetorical Situation                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                  | CLE Claims and Evidence                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                        | REO Reasoning and Organization                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                    | STL Style                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                 |
| ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                 |
| Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.                                              |                                                                                                                                  | Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. |                                                                                                                                        | Writers guide understanding of a text's lines of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence. |                                                                                                                                    | The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.                                                                      |                                                                                                                                 |
| Skill Category 1                                                                                                                                         | Skill Category 2                                                                                                                 | Skill Category 3                                                                                                                                                                    | Skill Category 4                                                                                                                       | Skill Category 5                                                                                                                    | Skill Category 6                                                                                                                   | Skill Category 7                                                                                                                                         | Skill Category 8                                                                                                                |
| <b>Rhetorical Situation – Reading</b><br>Explain how writers' choices reflect the components of the rhetorical situation.                                | <b>Rhetorical Situation – Writing</b><br>Make strategic choices in a text to address a rhetorical situation.                     | <b>Claims and Evidence – Reading</b><br>Identify and describe the claims and evidence of an argument.                                                                               | <b>Claims and Evidence – Writing</b><br>Analyze and select evidence to develop and refine a claim.                                     | <b>Reasoning and Organization – Reading</b><br>Describe the reasoning, organization, and development of an argument.                | <b>Reasoning and Organization – Writing</b><br>Use organization and commentary to illuminate the line of reasoning in an argument. | <b>Style – Reading</b><br>Explain how writers' stylistic choices contribute to the purpose of an argument.                                               | <b>Style – Writing</b><br>Select words and use elements of composition to advance an argument.                                  |
| SKILLS                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>1.A</b> Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message.<br>Units 1, 4, 7 | <b>2.A</b> Write introductions and conclusions appropriate to the purpose and context of the rhetorical situation.<br>Units 4, 7 | <b>3.A</b> Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.<br>Units 1, 2, 3, 6                                                                                         | <b>4.A</b> Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim.<br>Units 1, 2, 3, 6                            | <b>5.A</b> Describe the line of reasoning and explain whether it supports an argument's overarching thesis.<br>Unit 3, 5            | <b>6.A</b> Develop a line of reasoning and commentary that explains it throughout an argument.<br>Units 3, 5                       | <b>7.A</b> Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.<br>Units 5, 6, 8                         | <b>8.A</b> Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument.<br>Units 5, 6, 8 |
| <b>1.B</b> Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.<br>Units 2, 8                                  | <b>2.B</b> Demonstrate an understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.<br>Units 2, 8                                | <b>3.B</b> Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument's structure.<br>Units 2, 4, 6                                | <b>4.B</b> Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument.<br>Unit 2, 4, 6 | <b>5.B</b> Explain how the organization of a text creates unity and coherence and reflects a line of reasoning.<br>Unit 5           | <b>6.B</b> Use transitional elements to guide the reader through the line of reasoning of an argument.<br>Unit 5                   | <b>7.B</b> Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas.<br>Units 7, 8 | <b>8.B</b> Write sentences that clearly convey ideas and arguments.<br>Units 7, 8                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                  | <b>3.C</b> Explain ways claims are qualified through modifiers, counterarguments, and alternative perspectives.<br>Units 7, 9                                                       | <b>4.C</b> Qualify a claim using modifiers, counterarguments, or alternative perspectives.<br>Units 7, 9                               | <b>5.C</b> Recognize and explain the use of methods of development to accomplish a purpose.<br>Units 3, 4                           | <b>6.C</b> Use appropriate methods of development to advance an argument.<br>Units 3, 4                                            | <b>7.C</b> Explain how grammar and mechanics contribute to the clarity and effectiveness of an argument.<br>Unit 7                                       | <b>8.C</b> Use established conventions of grammar and mechanics to communicate clearly and effectively.<br>Unit 7               |

# Course at a Glance

## Plan

The Course at a Glance provides a useful visual organization of the AP English Language and Composition curricular components, including:

- Sequence of units, along with suggested pacing. Please note that pacing is based on 45-minute class periods, meeting five days each week, for a full academic year.
- Progression of skills within each unit.
- Spiraling of the big ideas and skills across units.

## Teach

**BIG IDEAS/SKILL CATEGORIES**  
*Big ideas and their skills spiral across units.*

|                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>RHS</b> Rhetorical Situation | <b>REO</b> Reasoning and Organization |
| <b>CLE</b> Claims and Evidence  | <b>STL</b> Style                      |

## Assess

Assign the Progress Checks—either as homework or in class—for each unit. Each Progress Check contains formative multiple-choice and free-response questions. The feedback from the Progress Checks shows students the areas where they need to focus.

### Unit 1: \_\_\_\_\_

~15 Class Periods

|            |                                                                                                                                         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RHS</b> | <b>1.A</b> Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message. |
| <b>CLE</b> | <b>3.A</b> Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.                                                                 |
| <b>CLE</b> | <b>4.A</b> Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim.                                                 |

### Unit 2: \_\_\_\_\_

~15 Class Periods

|            |                                                                                                                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RHS</b> | <b>1.B</b> Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.                           |
| <b>RHS</b> | <b>2.B</b> Demonstrate an understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.                                                 |
| <b>CLE</b> | <b>3.A</b> Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.                                                             |
| <b>CLE</b> | <b>4.A</b> Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim.                                             |
| <b>CLE</b> | <b>3.B</b> Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument's structure. |
| <b>CLE</b> | <b>4.B</b> Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument.              |

### Progress Check 1

**ONLINE ONLY**  
Multiple-choice: ~10 questions  
**ONLINE OR PAPER**  
Free-response: 1 question

### Progress Check 2

**ONLINE ONLY**  
Multiple-choice: ~20 questions  
**ONLINE OR PAPER**  
Free-response: 1 question

## Unit 3: \_\_\_\_\_

~15 Class Periods

- |     |                                                                                                      |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CLE | 3.A Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.                                     |
| CLE | 4.A Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim.                     |
| REO | 5.A Describe the line of reasoning and explain whether it supports an argument's overarching thesis. |
| REO | 6.A Develop a line of reasoning and commentary that explains it throughout an argument.              |
| REO | 5.C Recognize and explain the use of methods of development to accomplish a purpose.                 |
| REO | 6.C Use appropriate methods of development to advance an argument.                                   |

### Progress Check 3

ONLINE ONLY

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions

ONLINE OR PAPER

Free-response: 1 question

## Unit 4: \_\_\_\_\_

~15 Class Periods

- |     |                                                                                                                                  |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RHS | 1.A Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message. |
| RHS | 2.A Write introductions and conclusions appropriate to the purpose and context of the rhetorical situation.                      |
| CLE | 3.B Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument's structure.     |
| CLE | 4.B Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument.                  |
| REO | 5.C Recognize and explain the use of methods of development to accomplish a purpose.                                             |
| REO | 6.C Use appropriate methods of development to advance an argument.                                                               |

### Progress Check 4

ONLINE ONLY

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions

ONLINE OR PAPER

Free-response: 1 question

## Unit 5: \_\_\_\_\_

~15 Class Periods

- |     |                                                                                                          |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REO | 5.A Describe the line of reasoning and explain whether it supports an argument's overarching thesis.     |
| REO | 6.A Develop a line of reasoning and commentary that explains it throughout an argument.                  |
| REO | 5.B Explain how the organization of a text creates unity and coherence and reflects a line of reasoning. |
| REO | 6.B Use transitional elements to guide the reader through the line of reasoning of an argument.          |
| STL | 7.A Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text. |
| STL | 8.A Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument.  |

### Progress Check 5

ONLINE ONLY

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions

ONLINE OR PAPER

Free-response: 1 question

## Unit 6: \_\_\_\_\_

~15 Class Periods

- |     |     |                                                                                                                          |
|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CLE | 3.A | Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.                                                             |
| CLE | 4.A | Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim.                                             |
| CLE | 3.B | Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument's structure. |
| CLE | 4.B | Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument.              |
| STL | 7.A | Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.                     |
| STL | 8.A | Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument.                      |

### Progress Check 6

ONLINE ONLY

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions

ONLINE OR PAPER

Free-response: 1 question

## Unit 7: \_\_\_\_\_

~15 Class Periods

- |     |     |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RHS | 1.A | Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message.    |
| RHS | 2.A | Write introductions and conclusions appropriate to the purpose and context of the rhetorical situation.                         |
| CLE | 3.C | Explain ways claims are qualified through modifiers, counterarguments, and alternative perspectives.                            |
| CLE | 4.C | Qualify a claim using modifiers, counterarguments, or alternative perspectives.                                                 |
| STL | 7.B | Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas. |
| STL | 8.B | Write sentences that clearly convey ideas and arguments.                                                                        |
| STL | 7.C | Explain how grammar and mechanics contribute to the clarity and effectiveness of an argument.                                   |
| STL | 8.C | Use established conventions of grammar and mechanics to communicate clearly and effectively.                                    |

### Progress Check 7

ONLINE ONLY

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions

ONLINE OR PAPER

Free-response: 1 question

## Unit 8: \_\_\_\_\_

~15 Class Periods

- |     |     |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RHS | 1.B | Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.                                  |
| RHS | 2.B | Demonstrate an understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.                                                        |
| STL | 7.A | Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.                            |
| STL | 8.A | Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument.                             |
| STL | 7.B | Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas. |
| STL | 8.B | Write sentences that clearly convey ideas and arguments.                                                                        |

### Progress Check 8

ONLINE ONLY

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions

ONLINE OR PAPER

Free-response: 1 question

## Unit 9: \_\_\_\_\_

**~15** Class Periods

**CLE** **3.C** Explain ways claims are qualified through modifiers, counterarguments, and alternative perspectives.

**CLE** **4.C** Qualify a claim using modifiers, counterarguments, or alternative perspectives.

### Progress Check 9

ONLINE ONLY

Multiple-choice: ~5 questions

ONLINE OR PAPER

Free-response: 1 question

Unit 1:

UNIT OVERVIEW

Too often, students are rushed into writing full essays without having honed the skills of crafting a claim and defending it with textual evidence. Students will benefit from frequent practice during this unit writing paragraphs that include a claim that demands proof or defense and the textual evidence that furnishes that proof or defense.

One of the greatest initial challenges for students in composition classes is developing claims that require defense with textual evidence, rather than mere statements of fact that require no defense. By keeping the writing tasks in this unit focused on paragraphs rather than full essays, the likelihood of students receiving specific, consistent, and sustained feedback on the quality of the claims they are developing vastly increases.

Until students can read closely for evidence and then use that cluster of evidence to construct a claim that requires defending, it will be difficult for students to develop full essays with thesis statements and clear lines of reasoning. Each day, students should practice assembling evidence and developing claims, starting with one paragraph that includes a claim with evidence and then generating several claims about a subject, each communicated in its own paragraph with supporting evidence.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of these skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                        | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>RHS-1</div> <p>Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.</p> | <div>1.A</div> <p>Reading – Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message.</p> | <div>RHS-1.A</div> <p>The rhetorical situation of a text collectively refers to the exigence, purpose, audience, writer, context, and message.</p> <div>RHS-1.B</div> <p>The exigence is the part of a rhetorical situation that inspires, stimulates, provokes, or prompts writers to create a text.</p> <div>RHS-1.C</div> <p>The purpose of a text is what the writer hopes to accomplish with it. Writers may have more than one purpose in a text.</p> |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                      | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RHS-1</b><br>Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.                                                                         | <b>1.A</b> Reading – Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message.                                          | <b>RHS-1.D</b><br>An audience of a text has shared as well as individual beliefs, values, needs, and backgrounds.                                                                                                     |
| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.A</b> Reading – Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.<br><br><b>4.A</b> Writing – Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim. | <b>RHS-1.E</b><br>Writers create texts within a particular context that includes the time, place, and occasion.                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>CLE-1.A</b><br>Writers convey their positions through one or more claims that require a defense.                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>CLE-1.B</b><br>Writers defend their claims with evidence and/or reasoning.                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>CLE-1.C</b><br>Types of evidence may include facts, anecdotes, analogies, statistics, examples, details, illustrations, expert opinions, personal observations, personal experiences, testimonies, or experiments. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>CLE-1.D</b><br>Effective claims provoke interest and require a defense, rather than simply stating an obvious, known fact that requires no defense or justification.                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>CLE-1.E</b><br>Writers relate source material to their own argument by syntactically embedding particular quoted, paraphrased, or summarized information from one or more sources into their own ideas.            |

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## UNIT 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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**~15**  
CLASS PERIODS

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# Unit 2:

## UNIT OVERVIEW

In this unit, students will continue to develop proficiency in recognizing claims and evidence in other writers' arguments, while emulating such models in their own paragraphs. In addition, they will begin identifying the ways effective writers appeal to and persuade their audiences, while practicing such appeals in their own paragraphs. During this unit, students should build a collection of claims and evidence about a topic or issue so that they can move beyond individual paragraphs to derive a thesis statement from the patterns they see within their collection.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RHS-1</b><br>Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.                                                                         | <b>1.B</b> Reading – Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs.<br><br><b>2.B</b> Writing – Demonstrate an understanding of an audience's beliefs, values, or needs. | <b>RHS-1.F</b><br>Writers' perceptions of an audience's values, beliefs, needs, and background guide the choices they make.<br><br><b>RHS-1.G</b><br>To achieve a purpose, writers make choices in an attempt to relate to an intended audience's emotions and values.<br><br><b>RHS-1.H</b><br>Arguments seek to persuade or motivate action through appeals—the modes of persuasion.                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.A</b> Reading – Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.<br><br><b>4.A</b> Writing – Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim.                               | <b>CLE-1.F</b><br>Writers use evidence strategically and purposefully to illustrate, clarify, set a mood, exemplify, associate, or amplify a point.<br><br><b>CLE-1.G</b><br>Strategically selected evidence strengthens the validity and reasoning of the argument, relates to an audience's emotions and values, and increases a writer's credibility.<br><br><b>CLE-1.H</b><br>An effective argument contains sufficient evidence; evidence is sufficient when its quantity and quality provide apt support for the argument. |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.B</b> Reading – Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument’s structure.<br><br><b>4.B</b> Writing – Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument. | <b>CLE-1.I</b><br>A thesis is the main, overarching claim a writer is seeking to defend or prove by using reasoning supported by evidence.<br><br><b>CLE-1.J</b><br>A writer’s thesis is not necessarily a single sentence or an explicit statement and may require a thorough reading of the text to identify, but when a thesis is directly expressed, it is called a thesis statement.<br><br>[Note: While the texts you assign your students to analyze may not always contain obvious thesis statements, they should each have a thesis. It can be good practice for students to write a thesis statement for such texts. On the AP Exam, a clear communication of the thesis is required in students’ essays.] |

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## UNIT 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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**~15**

CLASS PERIODS

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Unit 3:

UNIT OVERVIEW

Students should continue to see themselves as evidence collectors, continually assembling and reviewing a range of evidence to identify overarching patterns that can be used to craft a thesis statement. But in this unit, students should focus on improving the ways they explain and connect evidence and claims to establish a clear line of reasoning through their essay. Students will also become familiar with several traditional methods of development that writers have used for centuries to advance their arguments.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                      | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.A</b> Reading – Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.<br><br><b>4.A</b> Writing – Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim. | <b>CLE-1.K</b><br>Effective use of evidence uses commentary to establish a logical relationship between the evidence and the claim it supports.<br><br><b>CLE-1.L</b><br>Writers introduce source material by using commentary to properly integrate it into their line of reasoning.<br><br><b>CLE-1.M</b><br>Synthesis requires consideration, explanation, and integration of others’ arguments into one’s own argument.<br><br><b>CLE-1.N</b><br>Writers must acknowledge words, ideas, images, texts, and other intellectual property of others through attribution, citation, or reference. |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <b>REO-1</b><br>Writers guide understanding of a text's lines of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence. | <b>5.A</b> Reading – Describe the line of reasoning and explain whether it supports an argument's overarching thesis.<br><br><b>6.A</b> Writing – Develop a line of reasoning and commentary that explains it throughout an argument. | <b>REO-1.A</b><br>Writers may lead readers through a line of reasoning and then arrive at a thesis.<br><b>REO-1.B</b><br>Writers may express a claim and then develop a line of reasoning to justify the claim.<br><b>REO-1.C</b><br>Writers explain their reasoning through commentary that connects chosen evidence to a claim.<br><b>REO-1.D</b><br>Commentary explains the significance and relevance of evidence in relation to the line of reasoning.<br><b>REO-1.E</b><br>The sequence of paragraphs in a text reveals the argument's line of reasoning.<br><b>REO-1.F</b><br>Flaws in a line of reasoning may render an argument specious or illogical.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>REO-1</b><br>Writers guide understanding of a text's lines of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence. | <b>5.C</b> Reading – Recognize and explain the use of methods of development to accomplish a purpose.<br><br><b>6.C</b> Writing – Use appropriate methods of development to advance an argument.                                      | <b>REO-1.G</b><br>Methods of development are common approaches writers frequently use to develop and organize the reasoning of their arguments. A method of development provides an audience with the means to trace a writer's reasoning in an argument.<br><b>REO-1.H</b><br>Some typical methods of development are narration, cause-effect, comparison-contrast, definition, and description.<br><b>REO-1.I</b><br>When developing ideas through narration, writers offer details about real-life experiences and offer reflections and insights on the significance of those experiences.<br><b>REO-1.J</b><br>When developing ideas through cause-effect, writers present a cause, assert effects or consequences of that cause, or present a series of causes and the subsequent effect(s). |

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## UNIT 4: \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASS PERIODS

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Remember to go to [AP Classroom](#) to assign students the online **Progress Check** for this unit.

Whether assigned as homework or completed in class, the **Progress Check** provides each student with immediate feedback related to this unit's topics and skills.

#### **Progress Check 4**

**Multiple-choice: ~20 questions**

**Free-response: 1 question**

Unit 4:

UNIT OVERVIEW

Students should enter this unit having learned to evaluate evidence to develop a thesis statement and organize an argument. Now the focus is on improving the quality, interest, and power of the argument by crafting introductions and conclusions that demonstrate a real understanding of the rhetorical situation. In addition, students will practice a few additional methods of development.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <div>RHS-1</div> <p>Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.</p> | <div>1.A</div> <p>Reading – Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message.</p> <div>2.A</div> <p>Writing – Write introductions and conclusions appropriate to the purpose and context of the rhetorical situation.</p> | <div>RHS-1.I</div> <p>The introduction of an argument introduces the subject and/ or writer of the argument to the audience. An introduction may present the argument’s thesis. An introduction may orient, engage, and/or focus the audience by presenting quotations, intriguing statements, anecdotes, questions, statistics, data, contextualized information, or a scenario.</p> <div>RHS-1.J</div> <p>The conclusion of an argument brings the argument to a unified end. A conclusion may present the argument’s thesis. It may engage and/or focus the audience by explaining the significance of the argument within a broader context, making connections, calling the audience to act, suggesting a change in behavior or attitude, proposing a solution, leaving the audience with a compelling image, explaining implications, summarizing the argument, or connecting to the introduction.</p> |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                                         | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p><b>CLE-1</b></p> <p>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments.</p> | <p><b>3.B</b> Reading – Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument’s structure.</p> <p><b>4.B</b> Writing – Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument.</p> | <p><b>CLE-1.O</b></p> <p>A thesis statement may preview the line of reasoning of an argument. This is not to say that a thesis statement must list the points of an argument, aspects to be analyzed, or specific evidence to be used in an argument.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>REO-1</b></p> <p>Writers guide understanding of a text’s lines of reasoning and claims through that text’s organization and integration of evidence.</p>                                                 | <p><b>5.C</b> Reading – Recognize and explain the use of methods of development to accomplish a purpose.</p> <p><b>6.C</b> Writing – Use appropriate methods of development to advance an argument.</p>                                                                                      | <p><b>REO-1.G</b></p> <p>Methods of development are common approaches writers frequently use to develop and organize the reasoning of their arguments. A method of development provides an audience with the means to trace a writer’s reasoning in an argument.</p> <p><b>REO-1.K</b></p> <p>When developing ideas through comparison-contrast, writers present a category of comparison and then examine the similarities and/or differences between the objects of the comparison. When analyzing similarities and/or differences, like categories of comparison must be used.</p> <p><b>REO-1.L</b></p> <p>When developing ideas through a definition or description, writers relate the characteristics, features, or sensory details of an object or idea, sometimes using examples or illustrations.</p> |

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## UNIT 5: \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASS PERIODS

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Unit 5:

UNIT OVERVIEW

The first four units focused on the fundamentals of analyzing and writing arguments. This unit examines ways to strengthen the coherence of an argument and should also help students become much more attuned to the effects of specific words and phrases in others’ arguments.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                      | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>REO-1</div> <p>Writers guide understanding of a text’s lines of reasoning and claims through that text’s organization and integration of evidence.</p> | <div>5.A</div> <p>Reading – Describe the line of reasoning and explain whether it supports an argument’s overarching thesis.</p> <div>6.A</div> <p>Writing – Develop a line of reasoning and commentary that explains it throughout an argument.</p> | <div>REO-1.M</div> <p>The body paragraphs of a written argument make claims, support them with evidence, and provide commentary that explains how the paragraph contributes to the reasoning of the argument.</p> |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>REO-1</b><br>Writers guide understanding of a text's lines of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence. | <b>5.B</b> Reading – Explain how the organization of a text creates unity and coherence and reflects a line of reasoning.<br><br><b>6.B</b> Writing – Use transitional elements to guide the reader through the line of reasoning of an argument.         | <b>REO-1.N</b><br>Coherence occurs at different levels in a piece of writing. In a sentence, the idea in one clause logically links to an idea in the next. In a paragraph, the idea in one sentence logically links to an idea in the next. In a text, the ideas in one paragraph logically link to the ideas in the next.<br><br><b>REO-1.O</b><br>Repetition, synonyms, pronoun references, and parallel structure may indicate or develop a relationship between elements of a text.<br><br><b>REO-1.P</b><br>Transitional elements are words or other elements (phrases, clauses, sentences, or paragraphs) that assist in creating coherence among sentences, paragraphs, or sections in a text by showing relationships among ideas.<br><br><b>REO-1.Q</b><br>Transitional elements can be used to introduce evidence or to indicate its relationship to other ideas or evidence in that paragraph or in the text as a whole. |
| <b>STL-1</b><br>The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.                                                 | <b>7.A</b> Reading – Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.<br><br><b>8.A</b> Writing – Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument. | <b>STL-1.A</b><br>Words have both connotative and denotative meanings.<br><br><b>STL-1.B</b><br>Descriptive words, such as adjectives and adverbs, not only qualify or modify the things they describe but also convey a perspective toward those things.<br><br><b>STL-1.C</b><br>Precise word choice reduces confusion and may help the audience perceive the writer's perspective.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## UNIT 6: \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASS PERIODS

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Remember to go to [AP Classroom](#) to assign students the online **Progress Check** for this unit.

Whether assigned as homework or completed in class, the **Progress Check** provides each student with immediate feedback related to this unit's topics and skills.

### **Progress Check 6**

**Multiple-choice: ~20 questions**

**Free-response: 1 question**

# Unit 6:

## UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit asks students to recognize and account for biases and limitations within the evidence they are utilizing in an argument. Students should develop an initial thesis statement and line of reasoning based on a pool of evidence that is fairly consistent, and then the teacher should introduce contradictory evidence that requires the students to revise their thesis statements to account for it. Accordingly, teachers should be especially thoughtful in sequencing the readings and evidence base for the topic of this unit. This unit also continues to examine the subtle and significant impact of specific words and phrases, with students analyzing how connotations of particular words convey an author's attitude or feeling about a subject.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                      | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.A</b> Reading – Identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument.<br><br><b>4.A</b> Writing – Develop a paragraph that includes a claim and evidence supporting the claim. | <b>CLE-1.P</b><br>When synthesizing, writers draw upon arguments from multiple sources, strategically select the most relevant information, and combine apt and specific source material as part of their own argument.<br><br><b>CLE-1.Q</b><br>A source provides information for an argument, and some sources are more reliable or credible than others.<br><br><b>CLE-1.R</b><br>A position and a perspective are different. Sources may have the same position on a subject, yet each comes from a different perspective based on their background, interests, and expertise.<br><br><b>CLE-1.S</b><br>When incorporating evidence or sources into an argument, the strongest arguments recognize and acknowledge the biases and limitations of the material and account for those limitations in their reasoning.<br><br><b>CLE-1.T</b><br>The degree to which a source does or does not consider other positions reflects the degree to which that source is biased. |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.B</b> Reading – Identify and describe the overarching thesis of an argument, and any indication it provides of the argument’s structure.<br><br><b>4.B</b> Writing – Write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may preview the structure of the argument. | <b>CLE-1.U</b><br>Consideration and use of new evidence may require revision of the thesis statement and/or changes to the line of reasoning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>STL-1</b><br>The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.                                                                                                 | <b>7.A</b> Reading – Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.<br><br><b>8.A</b> Writing – Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument.                             | <b>STL-1.D</b><br>A writer’s tone is the writer’s attitude or feeling about a subject, conveyed through word choice and writing style.<br><br><b>STL-1.E</b><br>Readers infer a writer’s tone from the writer’s word choice, and especially the positive, negative, or other connotations of those words.<br><br><b>STL-1.F</b><br>A writer’s shifts in tone from one part of a text to another may suggest the writer’s qualification, refinement, or reconsideration of their perspective on a subject. |

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## UNIT 7: \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASS PERIODS

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Remember to go to [AP Classroom](#) to assign students the online **Progress Check** for this unit.

Whether assigned as homework or completed in class, the **Progress Check** provides each student with immediate feedback related to this unit's topics and skills.

### **Progress Check 7**

**Multiple-choice: ~20 questions**

**Free-response: 1 question**

# Unit 7:

## UNIT OVERVIEW

In this unit, students should continue to practice revising claims (and sometimes the overarching thesis statement) to account for nuance, complexity, and contradictions in their sources. By the end of this unit, students should be highly facile consumers of evidence, able to determine quickly whether a new piece of evidence supports, refutes, or qualifies their claims, and then able to use modifiers to revise claims accordingly.

This unit also includes an understanding of how punctuation and design contribute to a writer’s purpose. However, grammar and mechanics are not the focus of this course. Students should be able to write complete sentences before beginning the AP class, and through frequent reading and analysis of others’ arguments and by emulating such models in their own writing, students’ proficiency in written English will increase during the course. When students write essays within the AP Exam, small grammatical errors typical of unrevised writing in a timed environment will not negatively impact the score. Performance is only hurt by grammatical errors that are so prevalent and significant as to interfere with communication.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                      | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RHS-1</b><br>Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation. | <b>1.A</b> Reading – Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message.<br><br><b>2.A</b> Writing – Write introductions and conclusions appropriate to the purpose and context of the rhetorical situation. | <b>RHS-1.I</b><br>The introduction of an argument introduces the subject and/or writer of the argument to the audience. An introduction may present the argument’s thesis. An introduction may orient, engage, and/or focus the audience by presenting quotations, intriguing statements, anecdotes, questions, statistics, data, contextualized information, or a scenario.<br><br><b>RHS-1.J</b><br>The conclusion of an argument brings the argument to a unified end. A conclusion may present the argument’s thesis. It may engage and/or focus the audience by explaining the significance of the argument within a broader context, making connections, calling the audience to act, suggesting a change in behavior or attitude, proposing a solution, leaving the audience with a compelling image, explaining implications, summarizing the argument, or connecting to the introduction. |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.C</b> Reading – Explain ways claims are qualified through modifiers, counterarguments, and alternative perspectives.<br><br><b>4.C</b> Writing – Qualify a claim using modifiers, counterarguments, or alternative perspectives.                                                                                                                                        | <b>CLE-1.V</b><br>A lack of understanding of the complexities of a subject or an issue can lead to oversimplification or generalizations.<br><b>CLE-1.W</b><br>Because arguments are usually part of ongoing discourse, effective arguments often avoid expressing claims, reasoning, and evidence in absolute terms.<br><b>CLE-1.X</b><br>Writers may strategically use words, phrases, and clauses as modifiers to qualify or limit the scope of an argument.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>STL-1</b><br>The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.                                                                                                 | <b>7.B</b> Reading – Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas.<br>(Note: Students should be able to read and analyze these complexities but are not expected to write with them on timed essays.)<br><br><b>8.B</b> Writing – Write sentences that clearly convey ideas and arguments. | <b>STL-1.G</b><br>Writers express ideas in sentences. Sentences are made up of clauses, at least one of which must be independent.<br><b>STL-1.H</b><br>The arrangement of sentences in a text can emphasize particular ideas.<br><b>STL-1.I</b><br>Subordination and coordination are used to express the intended relationship between ideas in a sentence.<br><b>STL-1.J</b><br>Writers frequently use coordination to illustrate a balance or equality between ideas.<br><b>STL-1.K</b><br>Writers frequently use subordination to illustrate an imbalance or inequality between ideas.<br><b>STL-1.L</b><br>The arrangement of clauses, phrases, and words in a sentence can emphasize ideas. |
| <b>STL-1</b><br>The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.                                                                                                 | <b>7.C</b> Reading – Explain how grammar and mechanics contribute to the clarity and effectiveness of an argument.<br><br><b>8.C</b> Use established conventions of grammar and mechanics to communicate clearly and effectively.                                                                                                                                            | <b>STL-1.M</b><br>Grammar and mechanics that follow established conventions of language enable clear communication.<br><b>STL-1.N</b><br>Writers use punctuation strategically to demonstrate the relationships among ideas in a sentence.<br><b>STL-1.O</b><br>Punctuation (commas, colons, semicolons, dashes, hyphens, parentheses, quotation marks, or end marks) advances a writer's purpose by clarifying, organizing, emphasizing, indicating purpose, supplementing information, or contributing to tone.<br><b>STL-1.P</b><br>Some design features, such as italics or boldface, create emphasis.                                                                                         |

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## UNIT 8: \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASS PERIODS

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Unit 8:

UNIT OVERVIEW

To provide teachers with time to focus on skills their students have not yet mastered, this penultimate unit only includes a small number of additional essential knowledge statements. AP teachers should utilize information they have gained from the Progress Checks (PCs) to identify the skills where their students most need additional instruction and practice, and focus the remaining class periods accordingly. Teachers can use the AP Question Bank to create additional practice on the skills the PCs identified as students’ greatest needs for further focus.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>RHS-1</div> <p>Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.</p> | <div>1.B</div> <p>Reading – Explain how an argument demonstrates understanding of an audience’s beliefs, values, or needs.</p> <div>2.B</div> <p>Writing – Demonstrate an understanding of an audience’s beliefs, values, or needs.</p> | <div>RHS-1.K</div> <p>Writers may make comparisons (e.g., similes, metaphors, analogies, or anecdotes) in an attempt to relate to an audience. Effective comparisons must be shared and understood by the audience to advance the writer’s purpose.</p> <div>RHS-1.L</div> <p>Writers’ choices regarding syntax and diction influence how the writer is perceived by an audience and may influence the degree to which an audience accepts an argument.</p> <div>RHS-1.M</div> <p>Word choice may reflect writers’ biases and may affect their credibility with a particular audience.</p> <div>RHS-1.N</div> <p>Because audiences are unique and dynamic, writers must consider the perspectives, contexts, and needs of the intended audience when making choices of evidence, organization, and language in an argument.</p> |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>STL-1</b><br>The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make. | <b>7.A</b> Reading – Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone or style of a text.<br><br><b>8.A</b> Writing – Strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument. | <b>STL-1.Q</b><br>A writer’s style is made up of the mix of word choice, syntax, and conventions employed by that writer.<br><br><b>STL-1.R</b><br>Writers may signal a complex or ironic perspective through stylistic choices. Irony may emerge from the differences between an argument and the readers’ expectations or values.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>STL-1</b><br>The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make. | <b>7.B</b> Reading – Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas.<br><br><b>8.B</b> Writing – Write sentences that clearly convey ideas and arguments.                 | <b>STL-1.S</b><br>Modifiers—including words, phrases, or clauses—qualify, clarify, or specify information about the thing with which they are associated. To reduce ambiguity, modifiers should be placed closest to the word, phrase, or clause that they are meant to modify.<br><br><b>STL-1.T</b><br>Parenthetical elements—though not essential to understanding what they are describing—interrupt sentences to provide additional information that may address an audience’s needs and/or advance a writer’s purpose. |

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## UNIT 9: \_\_\_\_\_

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CLASS PERIODS

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# Unit 9:

## UNIT OVERVIEW

To provide teachers with time to focus on skills their students have not yet mastered, this final unit only includes a small number of additional essential knowledge statements. AP teachers should utilize information they have gained from the Progress Checks (PCs) to identify the skills where their students most need additional instruction and practice, and focus the remaining class periods accordingly. Teachers can use the AP Question Bank to create additional practice on the skills the PCs identified as students' greatest needs for further focus.

While the skills outlined in this unit represent the required course content, teachers are free to teach the skills within the unit in any order they choose. Teachers should strategically select the texts they will teach, keeping in mind that a single text might be used to teach a range of skills.

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.C</b> Reading – Explain ways claims are qualified through modifiers, counterarguments, and alternative perspectives.<br><br><b>4.C</b> Writing – Qualify a claim using modifiers, counterarguments, or alternative perspectives. | <b>CLE-1.Y</b><br>Effectively entering into an ongoing conversation about a subject means engaging the positions that have already been considered and argued about.<br><br><b>CLE-1.Z</b><br>Evidence and sources will either support, complement, or contradict a writer's thesis.<br><br><b>CLE-1.AA</b><br>Writers enhance their credibility when they refute, rebut, or concede opposing arguments and contradictory evidence.<br><br><b>CLE-1.AB</b><br>When writers concede, they accept all or a portion of a competing position or claim as correct, agree that the competing position or claim is correct under a different set of circumstances, or acknowledge the limitations of their own argument.<br><br><b>CLE-1.AC</b><br>When writers rebut, they offer a contrasting perspective on an argument and its evidence or provide alternative evidence to propose that all or a portion of a competing position or claim is invalid. |

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## UNIT OVERVIEW *(cont'd)*

| Enduring Understanding                                                                                                                                                                              | Skill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Essential Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>CLE-1</b><br>Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments. | <b>3.C</b> Reading – Explain ways claims are qualified through modifiers, counterarguments, and alternative perspectives.<br><br><b>4.C</b> Writing – Qualify a claim using modifiers, counterarguments, or alternative perspectives. | <b>CLE-1.AD</b><br>When writers refute, they demonstrate, using evidence, that all or a portion of a competing position or claim is invalid.<br><br><b>CLE-1.AE</b><br>Transitions may be used to introduce counterarguments.<br><br><b>CLE-1.AF</b><br>Not all arguments explicitly address a counterargument. |