YOUNG WOMEN'S Leadership Academy

9th Grade Pre-AP English 1
2026-2027
Instructional Plan

Contact Information

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WHAT IS PRE-AP?

Pre-AP uses grade-level instruction intended to give all students the opportunity for growth. It gives teachers a framework that allows students to focus on skills that students will need to succeed in AP courses, college, and careers.

Shared principles:

- Close Observation and Analysis: Students carefully observe a data set, text, image, or problem--capturing relevant details before attempting to explain, analyze, or evaluate.
- Evidence-Based Writing: Students learn to craft precise sentences before progressing to longer forms of writing—applying these skills as they craft claims, develop arguments, and provide explanations.
- Higher-Order Questioning: Students engage with questions that are elevated beyond simple recall as they make predictions, synthesize, evaluate, and compare--learning that deep questions lead to deeper understanding.
- Academic Conversation: Students become active participants in their own learning through frequent opportunities to compare, critique, debate, and build upon others' ideas--recognizing that all voices, including their own, deserve to be heard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pre-AP English 1 is focused on building students' toolkits of literary skills that will enable them to engage with texts on a critical level. Students are expected to participate attentively and read outside of class.

Units:

- Telling Details - We will use a variety of short stories to explore literary techniques and critical thinking.
- Pivotal Words and Phrases - We begin by exploring several types of poems, and then focus on *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.
- Compelling Evidence - This unit revolves around informational and persuasive reading and writing, and gives the students a chance to dig into methods of persuasion used in informative writing aimed at adults.
- Powerful Openings - This unit, which we address first, is our opportunity to work together to analyse *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

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Additionally, two Independent Reading projects will be assigned from a curated list of thematically appropriate books. YWLA currently has a limited supply of these independent reading books, so many students will be expected to purchase or borrow these books. A list of reading choices will be posted in the Google Classroom, and parents are encouraged to review these choices with their students.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Below you will find descriptions of the most common activities that students will participate in during the course of each semester.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Whole class and independent novel study
- Drafting literary analysis
- Engaging peers in critical conversations

GRADES – Click here for → YWLA Grading Policy

Major (Test, Projects, Writing)	60%
Minor (Notes, Daily Work)	40%

Classroom Resources include:

- Collegeboard Pre-AP resources
- Google Classroom
- Pre-AP Classroom
- Quill

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS include:

- CED
- Unit 1
- Unit 2
- Unit 3
- Unit 4

Academic Dishonesty:

A student's work is to be original and not plagiarized. Students should be aware that presenting as their own any work generated from any AI writing assistant, unless specifically directed to by a teacher, is plagiarism. Students turning in work produced by AI or otherwise presenting someone else's work as their own can expect to receive an uncorrectable zero and an office

referral, making them ineligible for final exam exemptions. This policy is in line with the AI policy of major Texas universities, for example, Texas Tech.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We at YWLA are committed to working together to make this a successful year of learning.
