

## **AP Language and Composition**

### **2021-2022 Course Outline**

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**Description:** The AP English Language and Composition course—affectionately known as AP Lang—cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students into becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers and writers. The course is designed to deepen and expand students' understanding of how language functions rhetorically in particular situations.

A passing score on the AP exam at the end of the year demonstrates to colleges and universities that the student possesses the required knowledge and skills to receive credit for an introductory college composition class. As this is a college-level course, performance expectations are high, and the curriculum is challenging. Please note that the amount of credit for a specific score will vary from college to college.

#### **Digital Platforms:**

- **Renweb:** Lesson plans and homework assignments and due dates will be posted on Renweb. Grades will be recorded via Renweb.
- **Google Classroom:** Assignments, resources, materials, and due dates will be posted on Google Classroom. Classroom activities will often be coordinated through Google Classroom. Students will turn in selected work through Google Classroom.
- **Turnitin.com:** selected assignments will be submitted via Turnitin.com and scanned for originality.
- **AP Classroom**--practice and assessment resources to prepare for the AP English Language and Composition exam.
- **Email:** students can contact me with concerns and questions via email: [dpeacock@bereanchristian.com](mailto:dpeacock@bereanchristian.com).

#### **Class Policies:**

- Appropriate face masks must be worn, over the mouth and nose, at all times in the classroom.
- Bring all materials, including iPads, to class every day.
- Submitted work should include: name, date, period, and title of assignment.
- **Late Work:** In most cases, late work is not accepted. Subject to teacher discretion, late work **may** be accepted for reduced credit. Absent work can be submitted in accordance with school policy, as found in the Student Handbook.

- Selected work will be checked for originality via Turnitin.com.
- All assignments, including homework, are to be completed by the individual student, unless otherwise instructed. Working “collaboratively” or “sharing” answers on homework/assignments is a form of cheating, unless the assignment is specifically a group assignment. Submitting answers that are copied or paraphrased from any online source will result in a referral to the dean and a ‘0’ for the plagiarized assignment.

**Texts:**

- *The Language of Composition* by Renee H. Shea and Lawrence Aufses
- *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *My Bondage and My Freedom* by Frederick Douglass
- *Civil Disobedience* by Henry David Thoreau
- Students will read three additional Advanced Placement level non-fiction books to help develop cultural literacy and to encounter complex, extended arguments that are historically and culturally relevant.

**Evaluation:** Students are graded on the basis of timed-writes, projects, homework, class work, tests and quizzes, and participation. Students will complete Personal Performance Checks (PPC) as a part of the College Board’s AP Classroom. Grading toughens up as the year progresses—essays of similar quality will earn higher grades earlier in the year. Students are expected to grow in stylistic maturity as writers in AP Lang.

**Summer Homework:** Students will read *Unbroken*, by Laura Hillenbrand and “Civil Disobedience” by Henry David Thoreau, over the summer and will turn in homework on the first day of class. Late work will not be accepted.

**Ongoing strands throughout the year will include:**

- In-class timed writes—Rhetorical Analysis, Synthesis, and Argumentative essays
- Multi-draft writing and projects
- Personal Progress Checks and practice sessions—AP Classroom
- *Language of Composition*—homework and reinforcement of key concepts
- Independent reading selections from the College Board’s Advanced Placement recommended non-fiction books

**First Quarter**

The first quarter of AP Lang focuses on rhetorical analysis. Students will be taught to assess the rhetorical situation of a text, including the following key concepts: exigence, audience, speaker/writer, context, and purpose. They will learn how the tools of rhetoric are used to persuade an audience. Students will be taught to identify and explain claims and evidence within an argument and how to write an effective thesis statement. Writing instruction will focus on crafting effective paragraphs that include a claim, evidence, and analysis. Students will be taught to write an arguable thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that may

preview the structure of the argument. Students will be introduced to the concept of “Lateral Reading”--the practice of verifying what you’re reading as you are reading it.

- *My Bondage and Freedom* by Frederick Douglass

### **Second Quarter:**

The second quarter will focus on argumentation, with continuing emphasis on rhetorical analysis. Writing instruction will focus on sentence clarity, vocabulary, and sufficient evidence and analysis to support a claim. Students will analyze “OP-ED” articles in order to develop media literacy, to improve awareness of current issues, and to better understand techniques of argumentation.

- Students will choose an Advanced Placement recommended non-fiction book from a list of selected titles.

### **Third Quarter:**

The third quarter will focus on the Synthesis essay and will be reinforcing the skills taught during the first semester of the course. As part of our Synthesis Unit, students will focus on research, media literacy, and synthesizing sources in order to support an argument. A heavy emphasis will be placed on the quality of evidence found from multiple legitimate sources and how to evaluate competing sources of information. The “Current Issue Research Project” focuses on researching a pre-approved current issue, creating an annotated bibliography, preparing a research-supported speech, and writing about researched topics. Writing instruction will build upon previous lessons and will be tailored to each student’s individual strengths and weaknesses.

- Students will choose an Advanced Placement recommended non-fiction book from a list of selected titles.

### **Fourth Quarter:**

During the fourth quarter, students will review for the AP exam, focusing on timed-writes and close reading. During this quarter, we will intensify efforts toward stylistic maturity in writing, particularly in the areas of complexity and nuance, quality of evidence, and approaching texts “conversationally”. We will review strategies for success on the test that have been introduced and practiced throughout the year, honing analysis that effectively addresses the rhetorical situations of various texts.

- Students will choose an Advanced Placement recommended non-fiction book from a list of selected titles.

