



Southmoreland School District Advanced Placement Language and Composition Curriculum Overview

Advanced Placement Language and Composition Overview:

The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text— from a range of disciplines and historical periods.

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum. You can receive college credit for this course by receiving a qualifying score on the AP exam and/or signing up for dual enrollment through the Southmoreland Counseling Department.

Module Titles:

- Module 1: Introduction to Rhetoric**
- Module 2: Writing a Rhetorical Analysis**
- Module 3: Fiction as Rhetoric**
- Module 4: Modern Discourse**
- Module 5: The Art of Argument**
- Module 6: Synthesizing Sources**
- Module 7: The Great American Novel**
- Module 8: The Research Paper**

Module Overviews:

Module 1: Introduction to Rhetoric

AP Language and Composition is offered as the dual enrollment course Introduction to Rhetoric. This opening unit is the longest of the year, and it introduces students to the rhetorical situation (speaker, occasion, audience, and purpose) and the rhetorical choices made by an author (ethos, pathos, and logos). In addition, students will define and create the necessary parts of an essay: thesis, claim, evidence, and commentary.

Module 2: Writing a Rhetorical Analysis

After gaining a foundation of the rhetorical situation and rhetorical choices, students will now read famous examples of rhetoric and compose a rhetorical analysis. Students will write about how a piece establishes the credibility of the author and appeals to a



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specific audience. Students' writing will be scored using the Advanced Placement Language and Composition rubric: thesis, claim, evidence, commentary, and sophistication.

Module 3: Fiction as Rhetoric

Students will apply the skills from the previous two modules to works of fiction to show how even fiction can be used for a persuasive purpose. During this unit, students will read and analyze *Anthem* by Ayn Rand. In addition, students will create and support an original thesis using one of the prompts for the national Ayn Rand Foundation essay contest where students will have the opportunity to win a \$2,000 cash prize.

Module 4: Modern Discourse

Now that students can confidently analyze the persuasive techniques used by other authors, students will begin to use their knowledge of the rhetorical situation and rhetorical choices in their own writing. Each student will select a contemporary issue to read about and write about. After analyzing the stylistic choices made by various authors writing about their selected topic, students will compose an original argumentative piece. Students will demonstrate how specific syntax contributes to the style, tone, and purpose of a text.

Module 5: The Art of Argument

In preparation for the Advanced Placement Language and Composition exam, students will compose argumentative essays. In this unit, students will also explore the importance of qualifying claims through modifiers, counter arguments, and refutations.

Module 6: Synthesizing Sources

Students will synthesize provided sources and write a thesis statement that requires proof or defense and that previews the structure of an argument. Students will determine the overall purpose of each source and determine whether the source supports their argument or weakens their argument. They will also practice analyzing the validity and relevance of sources.

Module 7: The Great American Novel

After using sources about the "American Dream" during the Synthesis module, students will read and analyze *The Great Gatsby* as representative of American literature. In addition, students will explore the following schools of literary criticism and find creative ways to connect them to the novel: gender, marxist, formal, biographical, and historical.



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Module 8: The Research Paper

After taking the AP Language and Composition exam, students will select a documentary to watch offered by Teen Screen. As part of this program, students will then meet the filmmakers in the classroom or via Zoom. Finally, students will select a topic to research and write about. Research will be conducted at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, Pa.