

West High School: AP English Language and Composition

2023-2024 Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! This course is aligned to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum. "AP Lang" is different from most English classes you have taken before; it will require you to analyze *nonfiction* writing, develop sound reasoning and argumentation skills, and examine the power of language. Your summer assignment includes one task: a **letter of introduction to your teacher**. The approximate time required to complete this task is 1-2 hours. While this may appear a simple task, please do not procrastinate; this letter must be ready for submission on Canvas on the first full day of school. It will close to submissions just before midnight the day it is due. If you have any questions regarding your summer assignment, please contact Mrs. Green (sarah.green@knoxschools.org) for assistance. This is the best way to avoid panicking and resorting to cheating or plagiarizing (which are wholly unacceptable). I am likely to check my email several times during the summer.

While you will be selecting some texts on your own for analysis during the school year, it is important to be aware of the College Board's note about potentially controversial content in this course:

Controversial Textual Content

Issues that might, from particular social, historical, or cultural viewpoints, be considered controversial, including references to ethnicities, nationalities, religions, races, dialects, gender, or class, may be addressed in texts that are appropriate for the AP English Language and Composition course. Fair representation of issues and peoples may occasionally include controversial material. Since AP students have chosen a program that directly involves them in college-level work, participation in this course depends on a level of maturity consistent with the age of high school students who have engaged in thoughtful analyses of a variety of texts. The best response to controversial language or ideas in a text might well be a question about the larger meaning, purpose, or overall effect of the language or idea in context. AP students should have the maturity, skill, and will to seek the larger meaning of a text or issue through thoughtful research.

Additionally, please note the following regarding cheating and/or plagiarism; this includes AI:

Plagiarism: This school's plagiarism policy (both WHS and IB World School) is applied to any plagiarism for the summer assignment or any other class assignment. You will not receive credit for plagiarism because you did not do the work. You may not use SparkNotes, MonkeyNotes, or any other materials to replace reading the actual texts you select or are assigned. This also means you may not use information from these websites for your analyses (ie. direct quotes or paraphrasing). You may not use materials from another student. Do not work collaboratively without prior permission to do so. Collaboration has its place. However, we are working to prepare you for the AP Exam where no collaboration is allowed.

I look forward to guiding you in your thinking and writing during the upcoming school year! Have a wonderful summer.

AP Lang Summer Assignment:

Letter to Teacher

Please write an introductory letter to help your teacher get to know you and your writing style. The letter should be typed in either Google Docs or Microsoft Word. It will be uploaded to Canvas on the first full day of class. Your letter should include the following components; if you're unsure of the layout and structure of a formal letter of introduction, I highly recommend you do a bit of research before writing:

- **Formal Greeting**
 - **Introductory Information:**
 - **Potential topics:** Who are you? What do you enjoy? What should your teacher know about you as a student and/or as a person?
 - **Course Intentions:**
 - **Potential topics:** Why did you sign up to take AP Lang? What have you heard about this course? What are your expectations? What do you hope to get out of this course? What are you excited/worried about?
 - **Recent Picture of You**
 - This can be included anywhere in the letter.
 - **Formal Closing**
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RUBRIC:

Criteria	Outstanding	Strong	Adequate	Limited	Not Present
Formal Greeting & Closing The student incorporates appropriate greeting and closing language for their intended audience.	4	3.68	3.36	2.96	1.6
Introductory Information The student's introductory information is thoughtfully structured, engaging, and informative. The writing demonstrates awareness of audience & purpose.	6	5.52	5.04	4.44	2.4
Course Intentions The student's description of their course intentions is thoughtfully structured and reflective, and thorough. The writing demonstrates awareness of audience & purpose.	6	5.52	5.04	4.44	2.4
Photo The student followed directions and included a photograph as part of their letter.	4	3.68	3.36	2.96	1.6