

AP Literature and Composition

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AP English Literature and Composition Course Overview:

AP Lit aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. The course engages students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

AP English Literature and Composition Course Content:

The course is designed to help students become skilled readers and writers via these requirements:

- Reading complex imaginative literature (fiction, drama, and poetry) appropriate for college-level study;
- Writing an interpretation of a piece of literature based on a careful observation of textual details, considering the work's structure, style, and themes; the social and historical values it reflects and embodies; and such elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone;
- Composing in several forms (e.g., narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative essays) based on students' analyses of literary texts;
- Writing that proceeds through several stages or drafts, with revision aided by teacher and peers;
- Writing informally (e.g., response journals, textual annotations, collaborative writing), which helps students better understand the texts they read;
- Revising their work to develop the following:
 - A wide-ranging vocabulary used appropriately and effectively;
 - A variety of sentence structures, including appropriate use of subordination and coordination;
 - Logical organization, enhanced by techniques such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis;
 - A balance of generalization and specific, illustrative detail;
 - And an effective use of rhetoric, including tone, voice, diction, and sentence structure.

TEACHER'S NOTE: Taking AP Language and Composition and honors classes *should* provide an advantage for AP Lit students; however, those without that background can be and are also successful. Students practice grammar and editing strategies to strengthen their writing, which in turn enriches analysis. Skills presented in comprehensible steps with extensive risk-free practice ease students into meeting the challenges of learning high level content. In addition to preparing for the AP Literature and Composition test, students also acquire an excellent foundation for college level writing. If you do not enjoy reading and analyzing or if you are not interested in working diligently at becoming a better writer, this class is not for you.

SUMMER WORK: In June, the AP Lit summer work will be posted on ElwoodEducation.com and the WHS website where honors and AP work is available.

*In AP Literature and Composition, we will read like detectives,
write like writers, and edit like crazy.*

BENEFITS OF AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

This college-level course is designed to prepare students for the AP Lit test, college, and adulthood.

Although many prospective students plan to dedicate vast effort to their STEM pursuits, this class has an added benefit to be considered. You probably already work tirelessly on building an impressive GPA and racking up exhaustive campus and community service hours to win a coveted spot at your top-choice university and beat the competition for exciting internships and jobs. But, so does everyone else.

Do you want to outshine the other rising stars?

Besides offering benefits in the college application process, being articulate provides other advantages, regardless of your major. Former AP Lit students frequently report that starting college with strong writing skills enabled them to spend much more time on content, research, and other projects. They do not struggle with organizing ideas or formatting. Knowledgeable editing also saves considerable time. Professors appreciate the superior skill of WHS AP Lit students. And, by the way, professors do not typically teach writing; they expect competency from day one. Being a sophisticated writer, thinker, and conversationalist can open doors in many realms and edge out impressive, content-accomplished competitors, who lack these skills.

Even so, please understand that this class is AP Lit, *not AP Lite*. Do not expect a mere jot of effort to be sufficient. Your past A's and B's do not ensure continued success. AP Lit will challenge you, but this class is doable. Homework is mostly assigned a week in advance. Ungraded practice offers worry-free risk-taking and easily attainable cushion points. Teacher-directed peer review sessions prior to final draft submissions will help you hone skills. Quizlet awaits. With concerted effort, the improvement to your writing will surprise you.

HIGHLIGHTS OF AP LIT CURRICULUM

—not an exhaustive list—

REGARDING WRITING, AP LIT WILL

- Take *all* the mystery out of punctuation;
- Arm you with never-before-seen editing strategies;
- Deliver systematic lessons on quote structures, to provide more options with less guesswork;
- Ease you into seamless quote incorporation;
- Demonstrate adult-level writing and reveal the tricks to get there.

REGARDING ANALYSIS, AP LIT WILL

- Offer a panoply of literary eras and glimpses into humanity's sorrows and glories;
- Provide practice with analytical processes that unravel literary techniques and decode nuance;
- Push you to create college-level, *idea driven* work, as opposed to childish plot driven writing;
- Help you develop *your* writer's voice;
- Deepen your understanding of synthesis for more proficient application;
- Instill advanced vocabulary to support comprehension, writing, discussion, and test success;
- Walk you through AP Lit practices to develop test taking strategies and competency.

REGARDING ESSAY STRUCTURE, AP LIT WILL

- Assuage works cited page fear, via greater familiarity with the MLA Container template;
- Reinforce and delve deeper into MLA essay format requirements.

AP Lit might be your last chance to prepare for college-level writing.

See you next year!