

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH: Language and Composition

LENGTH OF TIME: one year, 90 minutes, every other day

GRADE LEVEL: 11-12

COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

1. Apply strategies to read complex prose texts from many disciplines. (PA Academic Std 1.2)
131198096. Develop understanding of the connections between interpretive skills in reading and writing. (PA Academic Std 1.3)
136430048. Identify strategies and styles of complex prose written in a variety of modes: argumentative, narrative, and expository. (PA Academic Std 1.3)
136430000. Apply knowledge of grammatical conventions to analysis of complex prose. (PA Academic Std 1.5)
131197952. Apply knowledge of grammatical conventions to develop personal writing style, with focus on effective vocabulary, sentence variety, coherence, repetition, transitions, tone, voice, diction, sentence structure and a balance of generalization and detail. (PA Academic Std 1.5)
32835360. Develop awareness of the stages of the composing process and apply the process to all formal writing assignments. (PA Academic Std 1.4)
76585888. Participate in peer revision and teacher conferences. (PA Academic Std 1.6)
78265296. Apply active listening skills while participating in large and small group discussions. (PA Academic Std 1.6)
78265920. Continue to develop vocabulary in writing, reading, and other assignments. (PA Academic Std 1.1)
78460032. Prepare for the AP test. (PA Academic Std 1.1, 1.4)
131188752. Expand personal reading, including number and types of readings. (PA Academic Std 1.3)

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- 1.1 Learning to Read Independently
- 1.2 Reading Critically in All Content Areas
- 1.3 Reading, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature
- 1.4 Types of Writing
- 1.5 Quality of Writing
- 1.6 Speaking and Listening
- 1.7 Characteristics and Function of the English Language
- 1.8 Research

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

1. Maintaining a Reader's Journal with analyses, interpretations, critical responses, and notes for all assigned and self-selected readings. (Course Standards 1,2,3,4,9,10,11)
2. Maintaining a Writer's Journal for all informal writing assignments. (Course Standards 2,5,6)
3. Maintaining a Writing Portfolio demonstrating use of the composing process for all formal writing assignments. (Course Standards 6,7,8)
4. Maintaining a Grammar/Usage Journal with both answers to specific assignments and corrections/notes based on class discussions. (Course Standards 4,5,8,9,10)
5. Preparing handouts for and participating in round table presentations of at least four additional self-selected readings. (Course Standards 8)
6. Actively participating in class discussion as evidenced by journal notes and appropriate contributions to discussions. (Course Standards 10)
7. Completing all writing assignments through the revision stage, completing required assignments through the publication stage. (Course Standards 5,6,7,8)

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This course emphasizes high level skill development in writing and critical reading. The student is expected to have strong language and writing skills. Students will read a variety of prose written in many different time periods, disciplines, and contexts. The goal for each student is to become a skilled writer when writing for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students will compose narrative, exploratory, expository, and argumentative papers. At the conclusion of the course, students may elect to take the AP English Language and Composition exam which may earn college credit. Placement is based on approval of the AP application. Summer reading and completion of writing assignments are required.

TITLES OF UNITS:

1. Writing Process/Writing Workshop (ongoing)
2. Classification Paper (1 week)
3. Comparison/Contrast Paper (2 weeks)
4. Extended Definition Paper (2 weeks)
5. Cause/Effect Paper (3 weeks)
6. Summary Papers: Objective, Critical, Evaluative (1 week)
7. Persuasive Paper: Argument and Logic (3 weeks)
8. Usage Review (ongoing)
9. Usage and Style (ongoing)
10. Vocabulary development (ongoing)
11. Test preparation (ongoing)

SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

1. Problem solving

2. Lecture
3. Discussion
4. SSR
5. Paired reading
6. Timed writing
7. Practice tests
8. Cooperative groups
9. Journals
10. Portfolios
11. Informal oral presentations
12. Writing conferences
13. Peer evaluation

MATERIALS:

1. AP English Language and Composition: Test Preparation, REA Association, 1994.
2. AP English Language and Composition Preparation Guide, Cliffs Notes Inc., 1993.
3. Warriner's English Grammar and Composition Complete Course, Harcourt, 1982.
4. The Essay Connection, 4th Edition, D.C. Heath, 1995.
5. The Writer's Work: A Guide to Effective Composition, Prentice Hall, 1990.
6. Death of a Salesman, Penguin, 1976

The course centers around twelve novels which are required reading for the course. Discussions of the novels, individual and group presentations, essays, and major research projects comprise the bulk of the course. Concepts considered may range from a paper on one's life philosophy to the Transcendental movement to the ultimate boundaries of the universe. These books are as follows:

1. Moby Dick
2. The Scarlet Letter
3. All the King's Men
4. Walden
5. Cosmos
6. Timeline
7. Einstein's Dreams
8. East of Eden
9. Passage to India
10. House of Mirth
11. Heart of Darkness
12. O Pioneers!

METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:

1. Opportunities are provided for retesting and rewriting compositions as appropriate.
2. Opportunities for private conferencing/tutoring are available on an as needed basis before, during and after school.
3. Additional self-selected reading is required appropriate to the student's ability.

4. Since admission to the course is based on strong writing ability and a grade of not less than a B in previous English level 1 classes, students experiencing great difficulty should be rescheduled into English 11, level 1, if assistance does not result in strong improvement.

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT:

1. Any paper completed to a published copy.
2. Score on AP exam if elected by student.
3. Reading Journal.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Portfolio completeness (quality, depth, deadlines)
2. Completion of all required journals, assignments
3. Conference records with evidence of growth
4. Tests
5. Quizzes
6. Major papers

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

1. Concepts
 - drafts of all papers
 - Reading Journal
 - Writing Journal
2. Communication
 - discussions of readings
 - peer evaluations
 - self-evaluations
 - participation in paired readings
3. Thinking/Problem Solving
 - analyzing readings
 - analyzing grammar exercises
 - using the stages of the composing process
 - timed writings
 - evaluating writer's choices in relation to style and usage
4. Application of Knowledge
 - vocabulary usage in various stages of revision
 - grammar usage
 - analysis of peer writing
 - application of writing modes in other content areas as appropriate
5. Interpersonal Skills
 - paired reading

- small group work
- presentations
- discussions