

# Course Syllabus

## AP English Language and Composition

### Northampton Area High School

#### Teacher Contact Information

Mr. Provini - Room 1164  
[provinij@nasdschools.org](mailto:provinij@nasdschools.org)  
610-262-7812 ext 11164

Course Code: E102AP

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Please contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. The preferred method of contact is through the email address listed above. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

#### Course Description

AP English Language and Composition is a demanding course that focuses on rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts and the development and revision of well-reasoned, evidence-centered analytic and argumentative writing. You will become a skilled reader of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and a skilled writer who composes for a variety of purposes. We will study the interactions among writer's purposes, reader expectations, and an author's propositional content, as well as the genre conventions and the resources of language that contribute to effectiveness in writing. Students will encounter a significant number of nonfiction texts written in a variety of modes, genres, and contexts, as well as fiction texts with the focus placed on rhetoric, argumentation, and ideas for synthesis. AP English Language and Composition is the equivalent of a college-level English course; it requires a commitment to independent learning and strong study skills. The focus of this course is on becoming a critical thinker who is aware of the world and capable of purposefully communicating ideas about it.

#### Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Analyze and interpret samples of purposeful writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies
- Analyze images and other multimodal texts for rhetorical features
- Use effective rhetorical strategies and techniques when composing
- Write for a variety of purposes
- Respond to different writing tasks according to their unique rhetorical and composition demands, and translate that rhetorical assessment into a plan for writing
- Create and sustain original arguments based on information synthesized from readings, research, and/or personal observation and experience
- Evaluate and incorporate sources into researched arguments
- Demonstrate understanding of the conventions of citing primary and secondary sources
- Gain control over various reading and writing processes, with careful attention to inquiry (research), rhetorical analysis and synthesis of sources, drafting, revising/rereading, editing, and review
- Converse and write reflectively about personal processes of composition
- Demonstrate understanding and control of Standard Written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writing
- Revise a work to make it suitable for a different audience

### **Units of Study**

- Introducing Rhetoric: Using the “Available Means”
- Close Reading: The Art and Craft of Rhetorical Analysis
- Analyzing Arguments: From Reading to Writing
- Synthesizing Sources: Entering the Conversation
- Grammar as Rhetoric and Style
- Argument Strategies
- 12 Vocabulary Units
- Practice AP English Language and Composition Exam

### **Expectations**

Students are expected to

- behave in an appropriate manner
- be respectful and courteous
- have appropriate interactions with peers, teachers, and guests
- use appropriate language at all times
- follow all school rules and expectations
- treat each other with respect and dignity
- work cooperatively when appropriate

Students should expect to be doing work for AP English Language most evenings, which may consist of reading, writing, studying, or working on long-term assignments. As in a college course, homework will not be collected/checked/graded on a daily basis. This might be a transition from the “do some work, get some points” style you are familiar with. Most of the time, homework will be to prepare you for the next class. These homework tasks are necessary for your effective participation in the next day’s class activities, and you are expected to be prepared. Reading checks may be given as necessary to ensure students are prepared for class.

### **AP Practice Exams**

One of the many goals of this course is to prepare students for the AP English Language and Composition Exam. We will devote time to practicing AP Exam writing prompts and multiple choice questions. We will practice the format, style of questions, and time constraints associated with the exam, and we will review explanations for correct answers, as well as sample student essays with analysis of scores. All students will participate in a practice exam session several weeks before the actual exam.

### **Schoology**

Schoology is an excellent tool for communication with students and families. Students can find course documents, assignments, materials, and due dates on Schoology. The majority of assignments will be submitted electronically through Schoology. You are expected to check Schoology daily for updates and notifications.

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones should not be seen or heard in the classroom, and the District’s policy will be followed. During classroom assessments (Quizzes, Tests, Quarterly Assessments, etc.) cell phones may be collected. If cell phones become an issue, they will be collected at the start of each class period.

### Cheating/Plagiarism

Students will submit their work electronically through [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). Any student caught cheating will receive a “0” on the assignment. If this occurs I will contact guidance , administration and a parent/guardian . The School District’s policy will be followed.

### Gum/Food/Beverage

Food and beverages are not permitted in class unless there is a special circumstance per administration or the nurse, or if it is a class activity involving food or beverage.

### Textbooks and Supplemental Materials

- Textbooks:

Graff, Gerald, et al. *"They Say / I Say": the Moves That Matter in Academic Writing with Readings* . 3rd ed., W.W. Norton & Company, 2015.

Shea, Renee H., et al. *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric*. 3rd ed. , BFW Publishers, 2018.

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well the Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction* . Harper Perennial, 2016.

- 3-ring binder, highlighters, Post-it notes
- Composition notebook writing journal
- NASD-issued Chromebook

Students may be provided with various fiction and nonfiction selections throughout the school year.

### Summer Assignment

All NASD AP courses have a summer assignment requirement. This assignment includes approximately 6-8 hours of coursework and is distinguishable from any non-AP course assignment. All incoming 11th-grade English students are required to read *The Things They Carried* as part of their summer assignment. Your summer assignment for this course begins AFTER you have read this book. As this is a skills-based course, you will not get study guide questions or a writing assignment on the book itself. Instead, you will be required to read or watch supplemental materials and respond to higher-level thinking questions. The assignment is broken up into 6 tasks, each of which should take you approximately one hour to complete. You will use Schoology to complete and submit this assignment.

### Final Exam Policy

- Students who have maintained a 90% or higher for their overall grade **AT THE TIME OF THE AP EXAM** will be exempt from the final exam.

### Grading Policy

The 11th-grade English grade book is based on the following weighted categories:

- Writing and Communicating Ideas - 35%
- Reading Comprehension and Analysis - 35%
- Vocabulary - 15%
- Homework and Participation - 10%
- Mid-Quarter Assessment- 5%

Writing assignments will be scored on the AP Rubric or individual assignment rubrics. All AP Prompt assignments will be evaluated using the AP-style holistic scoring rubric which is on a scale of 1-9. However, since this course is designed to help students develop AP-level writing skills over time, a conversion of their score is necessary. For example, CollegeBoard describes an essay score of 4 as “inadequate” and therefore failing. For the purposes of this course, the following conversion chart will be used for AP Rubric scored writing assignments:

AP Rubric Score	Adjusted Score /25	Percentage
9	25	100%
8	24	96%
7	23	92%
6	22	88%
5	21	84%
4	20	80%
3	19	76%
2	18	72%
1	17	68%
0	0	0

### **Your Responsibility**

The ultimate goal of this course is LEARNING. While grades and achievement serve a purpose, they are not the most important aspect of this or any course you take. I make every effort to make your assignments meaningful so that they help you become better readers, writers, and thinkers. I will not give you homework for the sake of giving homework, and we will not do busy work just to keep busy. However, just as I tell the athletes I coach, it is not my job to “make you good.” That is your job. How you develop as a reader, writer, and thinker in this course depends almost entirely on your mental effort, not on time spent or natural talent.

The most successful students in this course will be those who:

- Take responsibility for their own learning: asking questions, seeking feedback, thoughtfully revising, etc.
- Reflect honestly on their own abilities and have appropriate expectations
- Problem solve for their own solutions before asking the teacher
- Seek improvement and learning, as opposed to steps on a checklist to completion
- Go above and beyond on all assignments, not just the bare minimum
- Engage with the course with enthusiasm, both in and outside the classroom
- Add value to our learning community
- Become students of the world around them