

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Language and Composition

AP Language and Composition is a unique high school course. Unlike many of your previous English classes, we will be focusing primarily on nonfiction texts - working together to analyze and evaluate how authors craft strong arguments and texts. Our exploration of rhetoric will also be turned inward, giving you the opportunity to critique yourself as a writer and hone your academic voice.

This summer assignment is designed to prepare you for success in AP Language and Composition. Not only will the assignments help to familiarize you with our first unit but they also will help you to begin thinking about writing as a rhetorician. **Each of the assignments below build upon each other; therefore, it is encouraged that you complete the assignments in the order outlined in this packet to achieve the highest level of success possible.** You will need to apply this learning starting the first day of AP Language and Composition, so take the time this summer to prepare!

Due Dates

All assignments are due on **11 September 2022**. They will be minor assignments for the first quarter. Any assignments submitted after this due date will receive partial credit. **NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE TAKEN AFTER 25 OCTOBER 2022 UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ME.**

Questions, Concerns?

If you encounter any difficulties with your AP summer assignment or if you have any questions about the material, please contact Ms. Bedrossian at sbedrossian@bcps.org. Although it is the summer, I will do my best to check my email regularly. You should expect an answer within 48 hours. You can also send me a message on Schoology if that is easier for you!

Part 1: Nonfiction Text Analysis

You will be reading a series of short nonfiction texts, which are listed below. Please annotate the sources as you read them, focusing on how the speaker builds the argument or central idea through the use of rhetorical appeals. After reading each source, complete the "Rhetorical Analysis" assignment linked below.

Text List (please click on each title to view an electronic copy)

["The Salem \(and other\) Witch Hunts"](#)

[Preface to *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?*](#)

["Why I Love a Country that Once Betrayed Me"](#)

["Stalin's Purges and the Gulag"](#)

Rhetorical Analysis Worksheet Link

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kl1FOtmdLY_9kzG_mtcbTMXwhr12U8HshEZr8BnWnWE/copy?usp=sharing

Part 2: *The Crucible* and Dialectical Journal

You will be reading Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*. This is one of the few fiction texts that we will read during AP Language and Composition because it offers many opportunities to study argumentation. The play follows the events of the Salem Witch Trials, a historical event in American history. As you read, pay particular attention to how the characters craft arguments, particularly in the courtroom. These arguments will be the focus of our rhetorical studies when we begin school this fall. Also, pay attention to how the events in the play relate to the ideas discussed in the nonfiction texts listed above.

You will be provided a physical copy of *The Crucible* before leaving for summer vacation OR you may use one of the two PDF versions of the play that are linked below. Please click on a link to open the text.

The Crucible PDFs

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LvJNYgEH69aKUz_Cp1nPFtheP_f8lTY/view?usp=sharing
- <https://1.cdn.edl.io/2FVtYRcc5msx0nUilMXNv0vaBgRKEu5RaMRKSmYJNmK1jdJn.pdf>

As you read, you will need to compose four entries to a dialectical journal. A dialectical journal is used to explore the themes or central ideas of a written work through a written response to quotations from that work. For this assignment, you will choose ONE passage from EACH act in *The Crucible* and evaluate each with your ideas, insights, questions, reflections, and/or comments. Record your responses on the document linked below. Directions for what to include in your responses are at the top of the document.

Dialectical Journal Link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xj0-DaVepBP23xuh3RowQO7wb7Bf8kZWcNjGUcMZOrY/copy?usp=sharing>

Part 3: Writing an Argument

Use what you learned from reading the provided sources and to write an AP style argument that responds to ONE of the prompts below.

- In his speech, *Enemies from Within*, Senator Joseph McCarthy writes: "When a great democracy is destroyed, it will not be from enemies from without, but rather because of enemies from within". Write an essay that argues your position on the danger of internal threats to a society.
- In his article, "Deconstructing Paranoia: Towards a Discursive Understanding of Unwarranted Suspicion", David J. Harper quotes Sampson (1993) when he states: "Not probing or challenging the categories, divisions, and objects that we encounter ... but rather treating them as 'givens' of the world, is to participate in a political act that helps affirm current formulations by never examining how they became current and whose interests they serve". Write an essay that argues your position on the role of questioning authority and division in society.
- In his play, *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller writes: "no uncorrupted man may fear this court". Write an essay that argues your position on the equity of the justice system.

You should not do any additional research to support your argument. You are welcome to draw in examples from the sources provided in Part 1, *The Crucible*, and your own background knowledge; however, you should not be quoting any outside material.

Essays must be typed and written in MLA format. If you need to review MLA formatting guidelines, please visit Purdue OWL's website at:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

Your essay will be scored with the AP rubric, which is linked in the grading section. Please review the rubric carefully before beginning your essay.

Grading

Your "Rhetorical Analysis Worksheet" and your dialectical journal responses will be scored using teacher-developed rubrics. These rubrics are provided with the assignments.

Your essay will be scored with the AP Argument Writing rubric. This rubric evaluates your thesis (0-1 point), evidence and commentary (0-4 points), and sophistication (0-1 point). A detailed rubric explaining each of these categories can be found at:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-english-language-and-composition-frqs-1-2-3-scoring-rubrics.pdf>.

Please be sure that you scroll down to the argument rubric. It is the third and last one listed.

Plagiarism Note

Plagiarism is a violation of the academic code at Overlea High School and will be taken very seriously. Plagiarism includes all of the following:

- Directly copying information from an outside source without properly citing
- Paraphrasing information from an outside source without properly citing
- Taking others' ideas (including those from the Internet) without properly citing
- Copying another student's assignment in whole or part
- Sharing your assignments with classmates
- Using or paraphrasing from an AI tool (i.e. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.)

If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive an automatic zero on the assignment and will not be able to redo it for a new grade. Additionally, your violation of the academic code will be reported to the administration. Please note that giving your work to other students to copy or use is also considered plagiarism. Even if it is your original work, if another student turns in a copied version, you will both receive the punishment for plagiarism. These consequences are non-negotiable.