

Williamsville East High School
Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
2019-2020 (Ehmann and Lanzone)

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is a rigorous, college-level course of study that students may choose *in place* of the English 10-12 program when they are juniors. Students are recommended for the course by English teachers who know their work and believe it to be above average in composition and language usage. In May, the A.P. students take an exam created by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey. The exam is graded on a one through five scale, and students who score three, four, or five on the exam may receive college credit. The score required and the number of credits granted varies from school to school. The course does not end with the A.P. exam, but continues to the end of the school year.

Although the A.P. Language course is like the regular English 10-12 courses to a certain extent, it differs from other English courses in a number of ways. Students will read a broad and challenging array of nonfiction prose and political commentary often selected from current periodicals such as *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *Scientific American*, *Smithsonian*, etc. They will view political cartoons, films, read excerpts from graphic novels, and listen to audio essays from NPR. Through close reading, viewing, listening and discussion, students will begin to develop a language of discourse for non-fiction writing and become well-read in non-fiction writing, an area that is sometimes emphasized less in high school English classrooms. Voice, tone and diction, as well as rhetorical strategies, are emphasized in the course, and understanding these elements gives students an understanding of the importance of rhetoric and argument in a civilized society and the change that can happen in the world because of non-fiction writing.

As part of their coursework, AP Language students participate in a study of fiction. This study of fictional texts provides students with the opportunity to focus on how specific authors use rhetorical strategies and techniques. Reading fiction serves to heighten students' critical analysis of text, allowing them to comprehensively examine voice, style and use of literary elements and techniques. The students are required to purchase their own texts so that they may fully learn and utilize text annotation strategies. This helps our students to prepare for and meet the demands of our local final exam and the New York State Common Core English Regents Exam.

As the school year progresses, students begin to prepare for both the Common Core English Regents Examination (in June) and the AP English Language & Composition exam (in May) by completing practice exams, reading model exam question responses, and reading and discussing scoring commentaries.

During the summer, in preparation for the course, students are required to complete the following reading. **You must bring the three annotated texts and the article to class with you on the first day of school in September.**

****Please print and read the following article about proper text annotation before reading your summer books:**
http://chuma.cas.usf.edu/~pinsky/mark_a_book.htm

SUMMER 2019-20 READING ASSIGNMENTS:

You must read all of the works listed below:

Fiction

Charlotte Bronte

Jane Eyre

Nonfiction

Bob Blaisdell, editor

Great Speeches of the Twentieth Century (Dover Thrift Edition)

Poetry

Various Poets

101 Great American Poems (Dover Thrift Edition)

Read actively: Active reading can take the form of margin notes *and* underlining in the book, using post-it notes to mark *and* annotate passages, or keeping notes in a notebook.

To access current reviews on the books listed, go to the WCSD homepage at <http://www.williamsvillek12.org/>, select *Our Schools*, then *East High School*. Select *Libraries & Research* from the left column. Click on the related link, Williamsville East High School Library WITS Page. You will need to use your student's username and password to access this site. The second listing on the right will take you to a variety of resources containing current book reviews.