

# AP English Language and Composition- Summer Assignment 2018

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Dear AP English Language and Composition Students,

Congratulations! Welcome and thank you for electing to take the AP Language and Composition class next school year. While the course is more rigorous than English courses you have previously taken it will also be very engaging. A course description and explanation of summer assignments is provided below. If you have any questions about the assignments, please feel free to contact me via email: smosley@waterbury.k12.ct.us.

Enjoy your summer!

Mr. Mosley  
AP English Language and Composition

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## Course Description:

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is intended for advanced college preparatory junior level students. It is primarily a course in both effective writing and critical reading designed to strengthen the students' skills in analyzing the reasoning and expression for ideas in prose passages. AP English Language requires students to demonstrate skill in composition through the development of various rhetorical modes. Students are able to hone their own writing skills through attentive and continued analysis of a variety of prose texts. This course prepares students for further advanced level (AP or UCONN) English course work.

## Summer Assignments:

1. Obtain a copy of the book *Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White. Read each chapter and outline the important points and examples in each chapter. I recommend obtaining an inexpensive used copy through Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble. Any edition will do.

For information on how to construct an outline access the following link:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/544/01/>

2. Obtain the following nonfiction documents. I have provided web links to each of the documents below.
  - "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine  
[https://www.learner.org/workshops/primarysources/revolution/docs/Common\\_Sense.pdf](https://www.learner.org/workshops/primarysources/revolution/docs/Common_Sense.pdf)
  - "Civil Disobedience" by Henry David Thoreau  
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/walden/Essays/civil.html>
  - "Letter to Thomas Jefferson" by Benjamin Banneker  
<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-22-02-0049>
  - "Self-Reliance" by Ralph Waldo Emerson (first 10 pages)  
<https://math.dartmouth.edu/~doyle/docs/self/self.pdf>
  - "Mother Tongue" by Amy Tan  
[http://www.olympen.com/pnkduurr/as/mother\\_text.htm](http://www.olympen.com/pnkduurr/as/mother_text.htm)

For each of the documents you must write a 250-or-more-word analysis essay in which you answer the following questions:

- What is the topic of the passage?
- What is the context of the passage?
- What is the writer's conclusion or claim about the topic?
- What literary/rhetorical devices\* does the writer use to make his/her claim?
- What references or allusions does the writer use in order to make his/her claim?

\*For more information about rhetorical devices, please click on the following link:  
<https://hhs-english-iv.wikispaces.com/file/view/Rhetorical+Devices.pdf>

Please use the conventional form of essay writing for composing your essays. For information on writing effective AP-style essays please click on the following link:

[http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/courses/teachers\\_corner/17306.html](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/courses/teachers_corner/17306.html)

Please click on the following link to access the rubric that will be used to score your essays:

<http://www.georgetownisd.org/cms/lib/TX01001838/Centricity/Domain/594/apessayrubrics.pdf>

**ALL** assignments should be **TYPED** using standard black Times New Roman 12-pt font. Lines should be double-spaced, pages should be numbered at the top right-hand corner, and margins should be one inch all the way around the pages. A heading consisting of your name, the date submitted, the course name, and my name should be included at the top left-hand corner.

**ALL** of the assignments are due on the first day of school. Any assignment not submitted on the first day of school will receive a score of zero (0). No exceptions!!!! Each assignment will count for two *Homework* grades.