
Foothill High School
AP English Language and Composition
2019 Summer Reading Assignment

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Introduction:

The AP LAC Teaching Team welcomes you to Advanced Placement English Language and Composition! We are delighted that you have elected to take AP LAC next year. We believe that you will find the course to be challenging, enlightening, and a wonderful introduction to the college learning environment.

Advanced Placement Language and Composition is an intensive study of rhetoric and how language works. Through close reading of fiction and nonfiction prose arranged by theme, students develop their ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate language and text with a greater awareness of purpose and strategy, while strengthening their own composition abilities. Course readings feature an extensive variety of nonfiction texts, speeches, essays, and American literature. The course will prepare motivated students not only for the AP English Language test in May of next year, but also the Advanced Placement English Literature class in the senior year and, more importantly, for further studies at the college level.

AP English Language and Composition is a challenging and rigorous college-level course that investigates the uses, purposes, and effects of language. The College Board has identified two primary goals of the course.

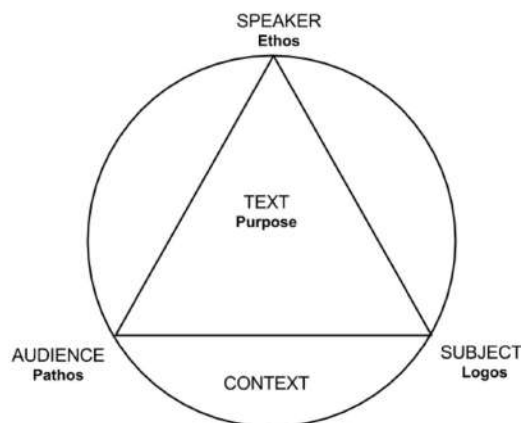
Major Course Goals

1. Developing critical literacy
2. Facilitating informed citizenship

In order to prepare you for the material and skills you will encounter throughout the year, we are requiring you to participate in this [compulsory](#) summer reading assignment. In keeping with the focus of this course, the assigned reading is for the summer comes from nonfiction texts. Its purpose is to introduce you to key principles and ideas that you will find indispensable, especially in the first weeks of the course. Please find the details of the assignment on the opposite of this page.



Cicero



Aristotle

Assignment:

1. Read and annotate *Thank You for Arguing* (2017 revised third ed.) by Jay Heinrichs.

This book will introduce you to the essential **theory of rhetoric** with ample examples and applications for work, school, and your personal life. Heinrichs writes in a conversational tone, but he also provides a master class in rhetoric and how to use it to be a more influential and persuasive speaker and writer, as well as a more shrewd and discerning reader, listener, and consumer of information. **Give yourself at least a week to read this book** at a relaxed pace; it is chock-full of information, so you will not want to read it in only two or three sittings. Do not become overwhelmed or discouraged by the liberal helping of Greek and Latin terminology provided in the book; your understanding of the concepts these terms describe is more important than the words themselves (although it wouldn't hurt to master **ethos, pathos, logos, and kairos**).

As you read, please **take purposeful, focused notes** on the principles of argument, major rhetorical appeals, and several useful argument strategies. After you finish the reading, study the review questions in the back of the book; these will prepare you for a summer reading **quiz** you will take in the **first week of school**. While we recommend that you read the book in its entirety, the content of only the following chapters will be tested (focus note-taking on these chapters): Preface, 1-9, 11-16, 21, 24, 26, 28, 30.

2. Write a reflection in response to your reading and thinking about *Thank You for Arguing*.

After reading and annotating the entirety of Heinrichs's book, write a **three-page reflection** on your reading (three pages is a guideline, not an exact requirement). Be sure to format your document according to MLA guidelines; this includes double-spacing, one-inch margins, and 12-point font. Because this is a personal reflection, you may use first-person pronouns in your writing. This response should comprise multiple paragraphs and must answer all of the following questions in a coherent reflective essay:

- a. **Paragraph 1/Introduction:** How would you describe the overall **purpose** of the author (Heinrichs)? How do you know? How does his **style** support his purpose? Provide your best definition of **rhetoric** in this introductory paragraph.
- b. **Paragraph 2/Development:** What **surprised** you about rhetoric and persuasion? Is any of the information you gleaned from your reading a game-changer for how you will speak, write, listen, watch, or go about your daily life? Please explain.
- c. **Paragraph 3/Development:** What are the **three** moves, devices, schemes, or figures that most intrigued you as you read? What about them attracted your interest, and how might you use this new knowledge in your daily life?
- d. **Paragraph 4/Conclusion:** What is Heinrich's central thesis (claim) in chapter 30 ("Run an Agreeable Country")? To what extent do you agree or disagree with his position? Why?

You will submit your typed reflection to **turnitin.com** on the first **Friday** of school. High marks will be awarded for responses that are thoughtful, thorough, specific, and especially coherent. *A reflection that responds to the questions only superficially or briefly will earn no higher than a C.*

3. Read and annotate *The Elements of Style* (1999 fourth ed.) by William Strunk and E.B. White.

Only the first two chapters, “Elementary Rules of Usage” and “Elementary Principles of Composition,” **are required reading**; the rest is optional. You will certainly refer to this book for the rest of your educational journey. Since this is a book about grammar, give yourself plenty of time to read it so that the ideas can marinate. This book is widely available in bookstores; however, it is also accessible online via Bartleby: <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>.