

AP English Language and Composition

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AP English III Language and Composition Summer Assignment

Course Overview

Welcome to the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition course. This is an intensive college-level class taught to students in their junior year and prepares them to read and write analytically and to take the Advanced Placement Language and Composition examination in May. One of the main objectives of this course is to help 11th graders to “write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum and in their professional and personal lives” (College Board, AP English Course Description, 2010, p. 7). This course is structured according to the requirements and guidelines of the current AP English Language and Composition Course Description, and, therefore, students are expected to read critically, think analytically, and communicate clearly both in writing and speech. The key function of this course is to offer a broad writing experience to students wanting to further sharpen their analytical and rhetorical skills. Although some fiction, poetry, and drama might be part of the curriculum, the course is mostly based on non-fiction pieces.

During the summer, students will be reading a non-fiction piece called *On Writing* by Stephen King, as an introduction to writing and analysis principles. The assignment is divided into two sections and students are responsible for completing all sections before **September 3rd, 2019**.

Section I

AP English Language and Composition: Summer Vocabulary

You are responsible for defining the following terms on notecards. You should be prepared for a quiz on these terms within the first few weeks of the school year, and you should use any appropriate terminology in your summer reading assignments.

Notecards must contain SIDE A and SIDE B

1. **Side A:** Name of Term and Definition
2. **Side B:** Use of the term within an example. Examples can be diagrams, sentence labeling, a picture or symbol, creating sentences, or using examples from famous

texts. Examples that are used from famous texts must include the in-text citation at the end of the sentence.

a. (*Title of Work, Author*)

i. (*Great Expectations, Charles Dickens*)

Rhetorical Terms: (concepts and terminology related to rhetoric and argument)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| → Argument | → Semantics |
| → Defend, challenge, qualify | → Style |
| → Discourse | → Antithesis |
| → Rhetoric | → Colloquialism |
| → Rhetorical devices | → Juxtaposition |
| → Rhetorical Modes | → Ethos, pathos, logos |

Literary and stylistic terms (useful for a discussion of style—many you already know)

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| → Connotation | → Syntax |
| → Denotation | → Tone |
| → Diction | → Transition |
| → Ellipsis | → Understatement |
| → Equivocation | → Voice |
| → Euphemism | → Polysyndeton |
| → Hyperbole | → Asyndeton |
| → Juxtaposition | → Chiasmus |
| → Malapropism | → Anaphora |
| → Mood | → Archetype |
| → Pedantic | → Antimetabole |
| → Platitude | |
| → Sarcasm | |

Literary and rhetorical devices (useful for a discussion of writer's craft or tools a writer may employ)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| → Allegory | → Oxymoron |
| → Alliteration | → Paradox |
| → Allusion | → Parallel syntax (parallelism) |
| → Analogy | → Parody |
| → Anecdote | → Pun |
| → Irony | → Satire |
| → Metaphor | → Simile |

Section II

Reading: *On Writing* by Stephen King¹

Assignment 1: King's Style (C.V.)

This is a non-fiction text, but it often reads like a novel. To tell his story, King uses literary elements and techniques (i.e. imagery, dialogue, figurative language) which we often associate with fictional pieces. Identify **three** passages where King uses such elements/techniques effectively, provide the quotes and the page number where you found them.

Assignment 2: Strategies

Create a writer's toolbox for yourself. Identify 10 rules of writing that King discusses throughout the text (include the page number), and choose the ones you think are important or interesting, explain how you see or apply these rules in your own writing. Please number your selections 1-10 (**10 paragraphs in total**).

Assignment 3: On Writing

Choose **three** key passages from this section in which King defines writing, either directly or figuratively. Analyze the passages in a **7 sentence paragraph** per passage, explaining his use of comparisons, examples, and life experiences to persuade the audience.



Assignment 4: On Living

Compose **two** tweets (yes—twitter) (**don't actually tweet them yet**) that explains your opinion of King, as both a writer and as a person. (This section will be completed in class)

- 2 initial tweets
- How many characters per tweet? 200
- How many replies? Reply to two peers
- How long ? 100-150 characters
- 4 replies in total
- What do you have to talk about? Take a position-- agree or disagree with their classmates and explain why.

¹ "On Writing." http://biblioteka.teatr-obraz.ru/files/file/English_cinema/Stephen_King_On_Writing.pdf. Accessed 29 Apr. 2019.