

AP Language and Composition

How do authors use language? How do specific words contain precise nuances of meaning? How do I evaluate ways the media uses language to persuade me, particularly in the context of political documents and advertising? These questions are at the heart of the AP Language and Composition course, a challenging, college-level course designed to help students develop rhetorical analysis and composition skills. In honing these skills, students will critically read and interpret a variety of fiction and non-fiction selections from American literature. During this year we will learn how to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate texts and to evaluate and construct arguments drawn from articles found within newspapers, magazines, and online. The course explores visual media, including advertising and the Web. Students construct arguments drawn from their own observations, experiences, and readings; they learn to synthesize as a result of their own research opportunities; and they learn to analyze arguments both for their appeals – ethos, logos, pathos – and for the contexts in which these arguments appear.

As this is a college-level course, performance expectations are appropriately high, and the workload is challenging. Students are expected to commit to a **minimum of three to five hours of course work** (includes reading) per week outside of class.