



Summer Reading 2025- AP Language and Composition

In preparation for AP English Language and Composition you must complete these 5 summer tasks:

1. Take the AP Language and Composition Practice Test

Set aside 3 hours this summer to take one AP Language and Composition Practice Test. Review exam format [here](#). Download the Multiple Choice [here](#) and its answer sheet for you to check [here](#). Download the 2019 Response Essays [here](#). Spend 60 minutes completing the Multiple Choice section. Spend approximately 45 minutes on each essay. Bring your three (3) essays to the first day of class to turn in. *Each essay is worth 15 points.*

2. Complete a Rough Draft of your College Essay

Complete a typed draft of your personal essay for college applications. Bring your typed essay with you to the first day of classes. *This is a graded assignment worth 50 points.*

3. Confessions by St. Augustine and **Utopia** by St. Thomas More

Read and annotate Confessions (ISBN: 9780375700217) and Utopia (9780140449105). You will have a test on these during the first weeks of school. Bring your annotated copies of the correct editions (see ISBNs above). *The annotations are a graded assignment worth 25 points. A major assessment on these texts will be worth 50 points.*

4. Pier Giorgio Frassati's Letters to His Friends and Family.

Read Pier Giorgio Frassati's Letters to His Friends and Family. Then write an essay about the three letters you consider the most interesting. In your essay make a claim about some truth revealed in these letters, a truth all three letters share. Be insightful, be bold. No 1st person or 2nd person, no passive-voice verbs, maintain verb tense. Do not go under 500 words or over 750 words. *This is a graded assignment worth 50 points.*

5. Rhetoric Flashcards

Rhetoric Theory Terms for the AP English Language and Composition Exam:

- A. Make flashcards of these terms on 3 x 5 index cards; you'll use these cards all year. Leave room on your cards to add examples that you'll encounter throughout the reading during the school year. *25 points*
- B. Memorize the definitions listed below; you will be tested on these definitions on

the second class meeting; the test format will be matching. 25 points

ALL RHETORICAL TERMS

1. **Rhetoric:** the art of persuasion through words
2. The three rhetorical appeals
 - a. **Ethos:** appeal to an audience's sense of trust in the speaker's good will, good sense, and good character; ethos is established by both who you are, what you say, and how you say it
 - b. **Pathos:** appeal to an audience's emotions (e.g., pity, anger, fear)
 - c. **Logos:** appeal to an audience's reason
3. **Rhetorical triangle:** a diagram that illustrates the interrelationship among the speaker, audience, and subject in determining a text
4. **Stance:** a speaker's attitude toward the audience (differing from tone, which is the speaker's attitude toward the subject)
5. **Thesis:** the main point of an essay or argument; a thesis may be open (leaves room for interpretation), closed (presents a definitive claim), or a counterargument (argues against a prevailing norm).
6. **Concession:** an acknowledgment that an opposing argument may be true or reasonable; in a strong argument, a concession is usually accompanied by a refutation challenging the validity of the opposing argument

The Rhetorical Situation: SOAPSTone

1. **Subject:** the topic on which a speaker writes or speaks
2. **Occasion:** the social, political, historical, and situational context of a text; the context is the circumstances, atmosphere, attitude, and events surrounding a text; the time and place a speech is given or a piece is written
3. **Audience:** the listener, viewer, or reader of a text; most texts are likely to have multiple audiences.
4. **Purpose:** the goal the speaker wants to achieve (to entertain, inform, persuade, prove)
5. **Style:** a) a writer's unique pattern of diction and syntax; b) the level of formality of a speech
6. **Tone:** a speaker's attitude toward a subject as conveyed by the speaker's stylistic and rhetorical choices

Rhetorical Forms

1. **Classical Argument:** a six-part approach to making an argument that includes a section for each of the following:
2. **Exordium / introduction:** introduces the reader to the subject under discussion; speaker announces the subject and purpose and appeals to ethos in order to establish credibility

3. **Narration / narration / background:** provides factual information and background material on the subject at hand or establishes why the subject is a problem that needs addressing
4. **Division:** outlines the points to be made in the text
5. **Confirmation:** usually the major part of the text, the confirmation includes the proof needed to make the writer's or speaker's case; it strongly appeals to reader's sense of reason
6. **Refutation:** addresses the counterargument and denies its validity while, usually, making some concessions; it is a bridge between the writer's proof and conclusion
7. **Peroration / conclusion:** brings the essay to a satisfying close; it typically appeals to pathos (feelings of the audience) as it moves the audience toward the conclusion
8. **Rogsonian Argument:** a form of arguing that prioritizes defining the problem and showing common ground
9. **Polemic:** Greek for "hostile"; an aggressive argument that tries to establish the superiority of one opinion over all others. Polemics generally do not concede that opposing opinions have any merit.
10. **Satire:** the use of irony or sarcasm to critique society or an individual
11. **Anecdote:** a brief story used to illustrate a point or claim
12. **Propaganda:** the spread of ideas and information to further a cause; in its negative sense, propaganda is the use of rumors, lies, disinformation, and scare tactics in order to damage or promote a cause

Ten Modes of Development

1. **Description:** a description of a thing (person, place, thing); usually filled with sensory images
2. **Narration:** telling a story
3. **Exemplification:** giving and explaining an example
4. **Division/ analysis:** dividing something up into the parts that make it up
5. **Classification:** placing something into the class of things to which it belongs
6. **Comparison and contrast:** comparing what is similar between unlike things, or what is dissimilar between alike things
7. **Process analysis:** describing how something is done
8. **Definition:** defining what a thing is (genus plus difference)
9. **Cause and effect analysis:** analyzing and speculating about the probable and possible causes and/or effects of something
10. **Argument and persuasion:** getting an audience to see or do something