

OVERVIEW

The AP English Language and Composition workshop is designed in keeping with the AP Program's dedication "to developing excellent college-level courses for high school students." Both new and experienced teachers will gain the skills and information they need to successfully teach the course. Participants will understand the common approaches to the subject with its emphasis on rhetoric and composition, and also see how to adapt those approaches in ways that are best suited to their particular students, existing curriculum, and school setting.

Our goal is to present a rich variety of useful materials, to share our expertise, and to provide valuable professional stimulation. Discussions will address not only the rationale and "big ideas" of the course so that teachers can make coherent curriculum choices, but also many practical strategies that answer the question, "But what do I do on Monday?"

Outline of Course Emphasis:

Essential Skills & Strategies: an overview of the nuts and bolts of AP English Language and composition including successful basic strategies, ways to organize the course, and pacing guides.

Key Concepts of Rhetoric: understanding the fundamentals of rhetoric in order to make informed curriculum choices.

College Board Resources and Materials: become familiar with resources to support students and teachers, the CB equity and access policy; and ways to implement and build an AP program.

Teaching Writing and Writing Management in AP English: methods for instruction, feedback, and management of timed writing; the AP scoring guide and grading; handling the paper load; successful strategies for on-demand and multi-draft, process writing; presentation of a semester writing project for the rhetorical modes of development.

Passage Analysis and American Literature: the "arch method," a fundamental methodology for prose passage analysis; successful strategies and activities for using American literature to teach AP Language; increasing the level of nonfiction text; nonfiction reading assignments and projects; teaching strategies that strengthen close reading skills.

AP Multiple Choice: types of questions, test-taking strategies for students, question-writing strategies for teachers, practice tests for participants.

Teaching Argument and Persuasion: “Everything’s an Argument”; logic fallacies; reframing argument as “inquiry” and “exploration”; successful strategies and classroom activities.

Researched Argument and the Synthesis Essay: Latest information about the relatively new synthesis question; sample prompts and student essays; methods and strategies for teaching synthesis skills; how the “new skill” appears on the multiple choice test.

Working with the AP Exam: background on the AP test; what readers look for; strategies for student success; read, score, discuss student samples; learn to score like an AP reader.

Course Description

AP English Language and Composition