

Islamic Foundation School Villa Park

Summer Work for AP Language and Composition

AP English Language and Composition is a writing course focused on the study and practice of “rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts and the development and revision of well-reasoned, evidencecentered analytic and argumentative writing” (College Board, AP English Course Description, pg. 8). This definition may sound isolated from day-today teenage life, but if you’ve ever wanted someone to understand you, believe you or agree with you, then you have practiced rhetorical skills. In its simplest definition, rhetoric is the study of the effective use of language and its potential to clearly express ideas with an audience in mind. In our class, we will critically consider a wide variety of texts, including essays, books, articles, speeches, and visual media. You will be expected to express your ideas in a variety of forms, including narrative, research, expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. In addition to developing your critical literacy, you will be asked to deepen your thinking about being human in an interconnected world and your role as an engaged citizen. Your summer work is designed to a) introduce you to essential rhetorical tools and b) provide opportunities for you to practice writing in response to self-selected pieces from The New York Times.

Your summer assignment includes the following:

1. In August, read, annotate and journal: Thank You For Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About The Art of Persuasion by Jay Heinrichs Revised and Updated Version © 2013

ISBN-13: 978-0385347754

Read Heinrichs’ book, you are expected to annotate the text and bring it with you to your first AP Language and Composition class. Your first class assignment will be based on this text.

You are to create a Dialectical Journal for the Heinrichs text: You will complete a series of journal entries for the book that demonstrates engagement with the texts, attempts to understand the various arguments presented, and provides a sampling of your best critical thinking.

Complete a chart like the example below. Please be professional—all information must be typed (12 point font, Times New Roman print). In addition, you must:

- Create a heading with your name, the book title, and book author. You only need one heading and you must use proper MLA format
- Select 5-7 meaningful passages (the sentences can be a sentence or two in a paragraph) that adequately draw from the beginning, middle, and end of the text.
- Write out the entire passage to which you will refer and include the page number from which it came.
- Paraphrase or summarize the passage. It will be helpful to provide the context in which it came. In other words, what is happening before and after this passage appears in the text?

- Analyze and react to the passage in full sentences—not notes. Use the Prolific Characteristics to Note sheet for ideas about what you can write about. This should NOT just be a personal reaction or summary; rather, you should attempt to analyze the methods that the writer uses to make his or her argument. This is where you will show your engagement and reflection. Your analysis should be longer than the selected quotation or passage.

Example set-up:

Student Name: John Doe

Book Name: The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead

Author: David Callahan

Quotation/Passage from the text w/page number

I played a lot of Monopoly growing up. Like most players of the game, I loved drawing a yellow Community Chest card and discovering a “bank error” that allowed me to collect \$200. It never occurred to me not to take the cash. After all, banks have plenty of money, and if one makes an error in your favor, why argue? I haven’t played Monopoly in twenty years, but I’d still take the \$200 today. And what if a real bank made an error in my favor? That would be a tougher dilemma. Such things do happen. (1)

Paraphrase or Summary

The author is remembering that a common childhood game had a positive moment when a player received “free” cash because a bank made a mistake. This is the way the book begins and sets up the idea of the Cheating Culture

Analyze and React

By beginning with a reference to a childhood game, the author reminds the audience of something that most people probably remember— not just the game, but the excitement of a “bank error” card. He also issues the question that “banks have plenty of money” so “why argue?” This really mimics what most people would probably say in real life to justify why they should keep money that isn’t rightfully theirs. He moves from this game topic to a suggestion that it could really happen (which he will explain later) and suggests that it would be a “tougher dilemma.” It almost seems like this could be a sarcastic remark. I think many people would just take the money. We tend to view banks as huge institutions that they will not miss a few rogue dollars here and there. This idea that Wall Street continues to pay out bonuses while the “little guy” is barely getting by or may not even have a job is especially prevalent now. By this question, the author seems to be trying to get us to ask if we can even justify that type of thinking. Is this the right decision to make?

2. Terminology for AP Language and Composition

Directions: Familiarize yourself with these terms creating a glossary of terms with examples. This may be handwritten or typed. I have provided the definitions for you. All you need to do is come up with an example for each term and include it in your glossary. When you return to school in the fall, please be prepared to show me your examples for each term.

- **Alliteration:** The repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of consecutive words or syllables.
- **Allusion:** An indirect reference, often to another text or an historic event.
- **Analogy:** An extended comparison between two seemingly dissimilar things.
- **Anaphora:** The repetition of words at the beginning of successive clauses.
- **Anecdote:** A short account of an interesting event.
- **Annotation:** Explanatory or critical notes added to a text.
- **Antecedent:** The noun to which a later pronoun refers.
- **Antimetabole:** The repetition of words in an inverted order to sharpen a contrast.
- **Antithesis:** Parallel structure that juxtaposes contrasting ideas.
- **Aphorism:** A short, astute statement of a general truth.
- **Appositive:** A word or phrase that renames a nearby noun or pronoun.
- **Archaic diction:** The use of words common to an earlier time period; antiquated language.
- **Argument:** A statement put forth and supported by evidence.
- **Aristotelian triangle:** A diagram that represents a rhetorical situation as the relationship among the speaker, the subject, and the audience (see rhetorical triangle).
- **Assertion:** An emphatic statement; declaration. An assertion supported by evidence becomes an argument.
- **Assumption:** A belief or statement taken for granted without proof.
- **Asyndeton:** Leaving out conjunctions between words, phrases, clauses.
- **Attitude:** The speaker's position on a subject as revealed through his or her tone.
- **Audience:** One's listener or readership; those to whom a speech or piece of writing is addressed.
- **Authority:** A reliable, respected source—someone with knowledge.
- **Bias:** Prejudice or predisposition toward one side of a subject or issue.
- **Cite:** Identifying a part of a piece of writing as being derived from a source.
- **Claim:** An assertion, usually supported by evidence.
- **Colloquial/ism:** An informal or conversational use of language.
- **Common ground:** Shared beliefs, values, or positions.
- **Complex sentence:** A sentence that includes one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.
- **Concession:** A reluctant acknowledgment or yielding.
- **Connotation:** That which is implied by a word, as opposed to the word's literal meaning (see denotation).
- **Context:** Words, events, or circumstances that help determine meaning.

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- **Counterargument:** A challenge to a position; an opposing argument.
- **Cumulative sentence:** An independent clause followed by subordinate clauses or phrases that supply additional detail.
- **Declarative sentence:** A sentence that makes a statement.
- **Deduction:** Reasoning from general to specific.
- **Denotation:** The literal meaning of a word; its dictionary definition.
- **Diction:** Word choice.
- **Elegiac:** Mournful over what has passed or been lost; often used to describe tone.
- **Epigram:** A brief witty statement.
- **Ethos:** A Greek term referring to the character of a person; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see logos and pathos).
- **Figurative language:** The use of tropes or figures of speech; going beyond literal meaning to achieve literary effect.
- **Figure of speech:** An expression that strives for literary effect rather than conveying a literal meaning.
- **Hyperbole:** Exaggeration for the purpose of emphasis.
- **Imagery:** Vivid use of language that evokes a reader's senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing).
- **Imperative sentence:** A sentence that requests or commands.
- **Induction:** Reasoning from specific to general.
- **Inversion:** A sentence in which the verb precedes the subject.
- **Irony:** A contradiction between what is said and what is meant; incongruity between action and result.
- **Juxtaposition:** Placement of two things side by side for emphasis.
- **Logos:** A Greek term that means "word"; an appeal to logic; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see ethos and pathos).
- **metaphor:** A figure of speech or trope through which one thing is spoken of as though it were something else, thus making an implicit comparison.
- **Metonymy:** Use of an aspect of something to represent the whole.
- **Oxymoron:** A figure of speech that combines two contradictory terms.
- **Paradox:** A statement that seems contradictory but is actually true.
- **Parallelism:** The repetition of similar grammatical or syntactical patterns.
- **Parody:** A piece that imitates and exaggerates the prominent features of another; used for comic effect or ridicule.
- **Pathos:** A Greek term that refers to suffering but has come to be associated with broader appeals to emotion; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see ethos and logos).
- **Persona:** The speaker, voice, or character assumed by the author of a piece of writing.

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- **Personification:** Assigning lifelike characteristics to inanimate objects.
- **Polemic:** An argument against an idea, usually regarding philosophy, politics, or religion.
- **Polysyndeton:** The deliberate use of a series of conjunctions.
- **Premise:** major, minor Two parts of a syllogism. The concluding sentence of a syllogism takes its predicate from the major premise and its subject from the minor premise.
- **Major premise:** All mammals are warm-blooded.
- **Minor premise:** All horses are mammals.
- **Conclusion:** All horses are warm-blooded (see syllogism).
- **Propaganda:** A negative term for writing designed to sway opinion rather than present information.
- **Purpose:** One's intention or objective in a speech or piece of writing.
- **Refute:** To discredit an argument, particularly a counterargument.
- **Rhetoric:** The study of effective, persuasive language use; according to Aristotle, use of the "available means of persuasion."
- **Rhetorical modes:** Patterns of organization developed to achieve a specific purpose; modes include but are not limited to narration, description, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, definition, exemplification, classification and division, process analysis, and argumentation.
- **Rhetorical question:** A question asked more to produce an effect than to summon an answer.
- **Rhetorical triangle:** A diagram that represents a rhetorical situation as the relationship among the speaker, the subject, and the audience (see Aristotelian triangle).
- **Satire:** An ironic, sarcastic, or witty composition that claims to argue for something, but actually, argues against it.
- **Scheme:** A pattern of words or sentence construction used for rhetorical effect.
- **Sentence patterns:** The arrangement of independent and dependent clauses into known sentence constructions—such as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.
- **Simile:** A figure of speech that uses "like" or "as" to compare two things.
- **Simple sentence:** A statement containing a subject and predicate; an independent clause.
- **Source:** A book, article, person, or other resource consulted for information.
- **Speaker:** A term used for the author, speaker, or the person whose perspective (real or imagined) is being advanced in a speech or piece of writing.
- **Straw man:** A logical fallacy that involves the creation of an easily refutable position; misrepresenting, then attacking an opponent's position.

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- **Style:** The distinctive quality of speech or writing created by the selection and arrangement of words and figures of speech.
- **Subordinate clause:** Created by a subordinating conjunction, a clause that modifies an independent clause.
- **Subordination:** The dependence of one syntactical element on another in a sentence.
- **Syllogism:** A form of deductive reasoning in which the conclusion is supported by a major and minor premise (see premise; major, and minor).
Syntax: Sentence structure.
- **Synthesize:** Combining or bringing together two or more elements to produce something more complex.
- **Thesis:** The central idea in a work to which all parts of the work refer.
- **Thesis statement:** A statement of the central idea in a work, may be explicit or implicit.
- **Tone:** The speaker's attitude toward the subject or audience.
- **Topic sentence:** A sentence, most often appearing at the beginning of a paragraph, that announces the paragraph's idea and often unites it with the work's thesis.
- **Trope:** Artful diction; the use of language in a nonliteral way; also called a figure of speech.
- **Understatement:** Lack of emphasis in a statement or point; restraint in language often used for ironic effect.
- **Voice:** In grammar, a term for the relationship between a verb and a noun (active or passive voice). In rhetoric, a distinctive quality in the style and tone of writing

3. Readings/ Assignment

Order the book:

myPerspectives The Well-Crafted Argument, 6th edition.

Publisher: Cengage Learning. ISBE # 9781305872141

All assignments listed above will be collected the first day of classes in August 16th. Please come prepared to learn.