



## McLean High School Course Description and Expectations

**Course:** AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

**Prerequisites:** English 9, 10, and 11 (Selected juniors may take this course for elective credit, but only seniors may take AP Lang for English credit.)

**Short Course Description:** According to The College Board, an advanced placement course in English Language and Composition “should train students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines and rhetorical contexts.” Students will experiment with different rhetorical modes (description, definition, cause and effect, persuasion, comparison and contrast). Students will also write news, feature, editorial and commentary, interview, review and critical pieces, investigative reporting articles and columns. The class will focus on close reading skills as well as writing skills.

**Summer Assignment:** Two selected novels (Last summer students read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and one choice of three memoirs)

**Work Load during the School Year:** 1-2 hours preparation for each class.  
A paper due approximately every two weeks, with one or two longer pieces assigned each quarter

**Special Course Information:**

Students should have the time necessary to read selections closely as well as the time to develop thoughtful essays.

It is extremely important for students to be present for each class.

The classes are often conducted in a seminar discussion format.

**Available Support:** Teacher is available to conference with students.

Student study groups are encouraged, as the goal of the course is to create intellectual independence. Student should purchase the Cliff’s *Advanced Placement English Language and Composition* book.

**Student Quotes:**

“The course is challenging, but the skills I have learned have definitely benefited me. I believe that anyone who joins this class and puts a lot of dedication in their work will feel fulfilled in the end and will become a better writer.” (Immanuel Amador, senior)

"It can be a lot of work, but the diverse writing units give you a taste of everything. The assignments are self-enlightening."(Jean Park, junior)

“AP Lang is a FUN challenge!”(Tina Lin, senior)

AP Lang is both an enjoyable and academically challenging course. Although there is a lot of work involved, working hard pays off when you see your writing improve."(Joyce Wu)

**Please sign indicating that you have read and understand the nature of this AP course.**

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student signature

.....  
parent signature

