



Cypress Lake High School
AP English Language and Composition
Will Bolin
Room E-101
willjb@leeschools.net

Introduction:

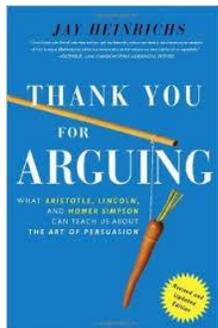
The AP Language and Composition course is designed to challenge highly motivated students to become more effective readers and writers while providing an opportunity to attain entry-level college credit. Throughout the course, we will be examining what motivates authors, audiences and society through the study of rhetoric. Students will practice rhetorical analysis, synthesis and effective employment of rhetorical techniques in their own compositions. As this is considered a college level course, the workload will be intense and expectations for performance and improvement will be high.

Course Objectives:

- Improve control of language, both written and spoken
- Gain a deeper understanding of rhetorical techniques and appeals
- Write for a variety of audiences and purposes
- Cite sources and format texts according to MLA editorial style
- Engage in ongoing public conversations through reading and writing
- Create academically sound lines of inquiry and employ in argumentation
- Develop ability to anticipate and consider interpretive responses different from their own

Required Texts:

Heinrichs, Jay. *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us about the Art of Persuasion*. New York: Three Rivers, 2007. Print.



This is the latest edition, but any edition will be sufficient. Most online retailers have the book for under \$10.

Course Content:

Several texts and sources will be utilized throughout the year in order to expose students to a variety of perspectives and styles. While some literary fiction and poetry such as *The Great Gatsby* and *The Crucible* will be studied, the focus of the course will be on nonfiction prose. Speeches and historical rhetorical texts will be heavily utilized by authors such as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, etc. as well as contemporary texts from published and accomplished speakers and performers. I do not support censorship, and from time to time controversial texts and topics may be discussed and read in class. I do expect that every student handle such texts with maturity and respect for their fellow classmates. If at any time you have questions regarding the validity or appropriateness of a text, please feel free to contact me for clarification.

Peer Evaluation:

A key feature of AP Language and Composition is revision of compositions. We will write frequently, and work will be shared with the class in both paired settings and whole class discussions. Students will be encouraged and graded on their effort to develop lines of inquiry and critique for their peers' writing and for how they apply critiques of their work to revisions. Students will be coached to conduct such feedback in a respectful, productive manner that we will develop over time.

Portfolio:

Portfolios will be created later in the second semester (more detailed guidelines will be presented at a later date). Students should not discard any writing, physical or digital, that they work on throughout the year. It will be expected that students are able to present a collection of their work representing the entire course.

Parent Link:

Parent Link is available to all parents to help you stay up to date on your student's grades, attendance, and assignments. To access Parent Link, log on to <http://ParentLink.leeschools.net> and follow the instructions provided onscreen. While this is an effective and convenient tool, it may not reflect changes in grade from the last refresh date (weekly). Please feel free to contact me personally regarding any questions about student grades and performance.

Homework:

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. Homework is due when the tardy bell rings. Assigned readings are considered homework. It is the expectation that all assignments be turned in completed and on time. If a student has an excused absence, homework may be made up for full credit. As this is a college level class, there will be no leeway with this policy.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

Regular attendance is an integral part of students' academic success. High school students are often engaged in several extra-curricular activities that may cause them to miss the occasional day which is completely understandable. With that in mind, students and parents should make every effort to prevent avoidable absences and tardies. Students will be given the number of days absent plus one additional day to make up all work missed for full credit as per the student code of conduct. However, it is preferred that students make arrangements prior to absences when possible to submit work by assigned deadlines.

Newspapers:

I would like to be able to present students with opportunities to utilize current, real world rhetorical situations as much as possible. I find that newspapers are an excellent source for these types of texts. Unfortunately, it is cost prohibitive to regularly provide multiple sources of differing viewpoints. If you currently subscribe to any national newspapers (New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, etc.), any donation of recent editions throughout the year would be greatly appreciated. Please be aware that any papers donated will not be returned.