

**Advanced Placement
English Language & Composition Curriculum
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Course Description: AP English Language/Composition offers students a year of intense training in reading and writing that not only prepares them for the AP Language/Composition examination, but also for successful university study, lifelong learning, and writing as a skill. The class focuses on rhetorical analysis of fiction and nonfiction, including primary sources in non-literary disciplines and a sampling of American Literature from the Puritan period to the present. Students learn to identify an author's purpose and strategies by examining the ways people use language. This course is about critical thinking – not the test! Think of the test as a *BONUS*. Students compose both personal essays and literary analyses of three to five pages in length and participate in response and revision. We practice for the AP test in May, scored 45% for a one-hour multiple choice reading exam and 55% for a two-hour essay exam.

Academic Expectations: Students entering AP English language/Composition are expected to be intelligent, articulate, and mature. The requirements of the class are rigorous, comparable to a college level English class. Students earning less than a grade of "C" after the first six weeks of class should transfer to another college prep English class. Those students reaching academic expectations will earn five grade points for an "A", four for a "B", and three for a "C". Students who pass the AP exam in May usually are granted college credit and the privilege of bypassing an English requirement. (Check with the college or university.) AP students are also expected to display the **maturity** and **ethical standards** demanded of college students. Simply being in the class does not imply entitlement to a high grade. It also means that any cheating or plagiarism will lower your grade, and be marked on your transcripts. Specifically, students must:

Spend an hour a night, minimum, on outside work (Homework vs Study time).

Attend class regularly. If a student is involved in activities that cause absence from class, that student will find it difficult to maintain an appropriate grade. More than five absences per *year* is excessive. Per District Policy, family vacations are **NOT** excused and, therefore, you will **not** be allowed to make up work from the absence.

Be willing to accept instruction and write according to specific guidelines. This class teaches students to write in a disciplined, focused, expository style that the students will use on college essay exams and in professional writing. While students will write no poetry or fiction in this class, they will be expected to display their creativity in analysis and thoughtful answers to writing prompts.

Assignments: We will learn how to be critical readers and effective writers by identifying, examining and manipulating the tools used by authors. Homework and class work consists of: close readings, discussion, timed readings, timed writings, partner response, self-evaluations, journaling, free writing, quizzes and exams. Approximately half of your grade will come from papers, interviews and research done outside of class.

Reading List: *The Devil's Highway, Elements of Style, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, The Scarlet Letter, The Great Gatsby, Fast Food Nation.*

Grades: Grades are determined by a percentage of the total points possible. A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F=less than 60%. Because this class is already weighted, I do not round grades.

Grading Categories and Weights:

Timed Writes – 35%
Homework/Class work - 25%
Test/Quiz/Projects – 35%
Participation/Preparation – 5%

Late Work: Full credit is possible only for work turned in on time. Late work will be accepted with severe penalty. Should a student be absent on the day a paper is due, he or she should make arrangements to have the paper delivered by alternative means. Emailing an assignment to the teacher is an excellent solution for an absence. Computer glitches are challenges to overcome, not excuses to make because excuses will not be accepted.

Makeup Work: Students are allowed to complete assignments and tests, which can be reasonably provided during an illness or **valid** absence. Students are responsible for making arrangements with the instructor and for completing the work within the agreed-upon time.

Extra Credit: Students performing at the expected level and turning in all the assignments should have no need for extra credit; therefore, none is offered. Remember: this is a college level course.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as using others' ideas or words without their permission. This includes other students' intellectual property. Copying more than five words from a text or the Internet, even if you change the order of the words, is considered plagiarism. This is a demanding, college-level class. If you find that you need to cheat in order to keep up, you'll find that you've already failed, both the course, and yourself.

Please note that the Constitution of the State of California requires that we provide a public education to you free of charge. Your right to a free education is for all school/educational activities, whether curricular or extracurricular, and whether you get a grade for the activity or class. Subject to certain exceptions, your right to a free public education means that we cannot require you or your family to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity, nor can we require you or your family to pay security deposits for access, participation, materials, or equipment

2019

Print Last Name _____ Period _____

Students and Parents: Outlined here is an expansion and detailed explanation, with examples, of the CAPISTRANO UNIFIED ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY that is in the *Tesoro Student Handbook*. The purpose is to provide specifics and further details regarding the current policy. Not all consequences are listed here but are in the handbook. I urge students and parents to ask about the policy if they have questions and to contact me if further clarification is needed. Depending on the incident, I may speak to the student first or notify the parent first. This protocol is tailored to the circumstances, which may include the number of students involved, timing, assignment, and type of infraction.

Student Academic Integrity Contract

Cheating, plagiarism, or helping another person to cheat violates Tesoro High School's *Academic Integrity Policy*. A first offense will be referred to the assistant principal for disciplinary action. Such actions also result in a zero for the assignment, parent notification, and other possible classroom consequences. Students will not be able to make-up or redo the assignment. All parties involved are subject to the same consequences. In order to deter plagiarism, students will be required to submit their work to **Turnitin.com** for review. **PLAGIARISM**, which is copying work or ideas from another source and submitting it as original work **or** aiding another person to plagiarize, includes but is not limited to the following actions:

- turning in someone else's work as your own (including college students, former students, tutors, or other adults)
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit (including a peer's homework or sources similar to Spark Notes – which a student may choose to consult to aid in comprehension but homework answers and essay content must be generated from the text, not online summaries or analysis)
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks (example: to fulfill a paraphrase requirement)
- giving incorrect information about the source of your information or misrepresenting your work
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not
- allowing a student to copy your work or access it through google docs or school loop
- engaging in negligent acts or poor decisions that result in cheating or plagiarism:
 - leaving work out and visible for someone to copy
 - **sending work electronically to someone or sharing work through technology**
 - loaning a notebook or flash drive that contains previously written work
 - handing work to someone who copies it despite assurances that they won't
 - giving passwords to another student who then accesses your work through Google docs or School Loop
 - misuse of technology that leads to cheating or plagiarism (when using Illuminate you must log in through the secure browser- other programs/websites are not to be opened simultaneously).
 - using and not reporting websites/study sites that have clearly uploaded tests/quizzes for a particular class.
 - submitting work that was produced by **unauthorized collaboration or sharing** on assignments/research designed to be completed independent (*see note below). In class, we will go over this section twice!!

*Students are encouraged to discuss their opinions of assigned works with peers. Meaningful discussion often leads to deeper insight and helps students make personal connections with literature. HOWEVER, all written work produced as a result of these discussions, shared inquiries, or research must be produced independently. **Students must not write assignments together** (including research notes/outlines/quotes) or share work written by one unless it is an authorized group project requiring that only one paper be submitted for the group. Doing homework together can lead to plagiarism as one student ends up dictating answers to the other or using the same quotes/commentary. Please do not collaborate when looking for answers to questions or when writing your responses.

Please be aware that self-plagiarism (recycling your own previously written work) is not acceptable.

Please be aware that any homework copying, no matter how routine the assignment may seem to you, is cheating and will result in the full consequences of an academic integrity violation.

A NOTE ABOUT GOOGLE DOCS AND PASSWORDS: Sharing one document for an assignment that is meant to be completed independently is not allowed. This may lead to one or both students turning in plagiarized work. Similarly, giving your **password** to another student may also result in your work being used by another student. Both students share the same consequence. **(remember – if you share a password or document you will also share the consequences of the violation regardless of who copied from whom)**

Today's technology allows easy access to previously published material or to another student's work, so it may be tempting to cut and paste - especially if you wait until the last minute. You may be approached to provide your work **or your password** to another student. If you do, you are engaging in behavior that may help another student cheat, which is also a violation of the academic integrity policy. *When there is a time gap between the production of an original document that is later used to help a student cheat, a grade can be changed retroactively.* There are consequences for such actions and your signature confirming receipt and understanding of this contract will be kept on file. Please ask questions about plagiarism and this contract at any time.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

****talking and cell phone use during or immediately following tests will be considered cheating***