



AP Language and Composition 2024/2025

Teacher Contact Information

Kristina Knox
Nevada Union High School
kknox@njuhsd.com
Phone: 530-273-4431 x2219

Course Description

The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text—from a range of disciplines and historical periods.

Big Ideas

Big Ideas are the key elements covered in the AP Language and Composition course. Each of these ideas are covered in the AP Language and Composition Exam.

- **Rhetorical Situation:** Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.
- **Claims and Evidence:** Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments.
- **Reasoning and Organization:** Writers guide understanding of a text's lines of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence.
- **Style:** The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.

AP Exam

Exam Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

The AP exam includes a multiple-choice section that requires students to answer rhetorical analysis and composition questions and a free response section that requires students to write a synthesis argumentative essay using provided sources, a rhetorical analysis essay on a provided selection of text, and an argument essay that requires students to provide their own support for their position.

Grading

Grading will be based on engagement and assessments. All assignments are worth 10 points. The gradebook will be weighted accordingly

- **Engagement 60%** - Engagement will encompass a wide range of expectations both in and out of class that are designed to prepare students for the AP exam in the spring. These expectations include completing all required reading and assignments as well as being prepared and participating in classroom activities and discussions, both independent and collaborative. *Students are expected to be engaged.*
- **Assessments 40%** - Assessments are used for the specific purpose of determining student mastery of the AP Big Ideas and exam-specific skills.

Late Work Policy

This is an advanced course that will move quickly. Late work will not be accepted. If you know ahead of time that meeting a large upcoming due date will not be possible, talk to your instructor. An extension may be possible. Extracurriculars will not be legitimate reasons not to meet due dates. These policies do not apply to absences, please see the absence policy for those guidelines.

Controversial Text

Issues that might, from particular social, historical, or cultural viewpoints, be considered controversial, including references to ethnicities, nationalities, religions, races, dialects, gender, or class, may be addressed in texts that are appropriate for the AP English Language and Composition course. Fair representation of issues and peoples may occasionally include controversial material. Since AP students have chosen a program that directly involves them in college-level work, participation in this course depends on a level of maturity consistent with the age of high school students who have engaged in thoughtful analyses of a variety of texts. The best response to controversial language or ideas in a text might well be a question about the larger meaning, purpose, or overall effect of the language or idea in context. AP students

should have the maturity, skill, and will to seek the larger meaning of a text or issue through thoughtful research.

Academic Dishonesty

This class aligns with NU's Academic Honesty and Plagiarism policy:

Nevada Union High School is dedicated to providing students with an environment that encourages academic honesty and integrity. Academic honesty requires that students produce work that is their own. Students are to be aware that cheating, plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students who participate in acts of academic dishonesty will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty / plagiarism can take many forms, including:

- Electronically sharing one's work with other students.
- Submitting another student's electronic document as your own.
- Multiple students submitting the same work on an individual assignment (as opposed to a group assignment or project).
- Copying and pasting any portion of another person's work into your own document, particularly without properly citing the source.
- Modifying or paraphrasing content from another source without citing the source.
- Showing your answers to other students or looking at another student's answers / responses.
- Including words or images found on the internet in one's work without properly citing the source.
- Including use of any kind of AI generator to represent a student's original ideas.

Attendance

Attendance is critical.

- It is the student's responsibility to manage extracurricular and academic schedules in order to keep up on their assignments. Students must be organized when scheduling work completion in the time expected. Missing class is not an excuse to miss a due date if it has been posted in advance, either in the lesson plans or on Schoology.
- It is up to the student to communicate with the instructor how and when they will make up a particular assignment - when possible, prior to absence.
- Each class period, student attendance will be recorded by the presence of the student's cell phone in their assigned numbered pocket. If a student does not own a cell phone or has a special situation, they need to meet with the teacher to make alternate arrangements.

Cell Phone Policy

NU English has a zero-tolerance cell phone policy. Students are expected to come to class and put their cell phones in a designated pocket of the cell phone holder. If the phone is not in the proper pocket and seen during class, it will be confiscated. Cell phones will remain in the designated pocket when the student leaves the room for any reason other than to leave class for the day. Please refer to page 37 of the student handbook for cell phone violations.