

Reading Public Schools

Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow



English Curriculum Guide

Advanced Placement Language & Composition

Course Description

This introductory college-level course is for students who have performed exceptionally in sophomore Honors English and who are careful, critical readers and writers. Dedication to reading and writing prolifically is a must. Students should bring to the course sufficient command of mechanical conventions and an ability to read and discuss challenging prose. Course materials range from narrative, expository, analytical, personal, to argumentative. Students analyze a broad and challenging range of nonfiction prose selections, deepening their awareness of rhetoric and how language works. Through close reading and frequent writing, committed students will develop their ability to work with language and text with greater awareness of purpose, strategy, and audience thereby developing a sense of personal style and an ability to analyze and articulate how the resources of language operate in any given text. Research writing is also a course component.

Reading & Writing Skills

READING

MA Curriculum Frameworks Standards RI. 1, 2, 5, 6, 10

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence.
- Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text.
- Analyze the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in an exposition or argument.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective.
- Independently and proficiently read and comprehend literary non-fiction representing a variety of genres, cultures, and perspectives.

WRITING

MA Curriculum Frameworks Standards W1, 2, 4-6, 8-10

- Write arguments.

- Write informative/explanatory texts.
- Produce clear and coherent writing appropriate to the audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed
- Use technology to produce, publish, and update writing products.
- When conducting research, gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources.
- Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research.

College Board Course Skills

The College Board identifies eight course skills for AP Language & Composition.

1. Explain how writers' choices reflect the components of the rhetorical situation.
2. Make strategic choices in a text to address a rhetorical situation
3. Identify and describe the claims and evidence of an argument.
4. Analyze and select evidence to develop and refine a claim.
5. Describe the reasoning, organization, and development of an argument.
6. Use organization and commentary to illuminate the line of reasoning in an argument.
7. Explain how writers' stylistic choices contribute to the purpose of an argument.
8. Select words and use elements of composition to advance an argument.

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English Curriculum Guide Overview

Curriculum Guide

Curriculum guides are public documents aligned with the Massachusetts Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks . They focus on the set of standards that students will learn within certain disciplines at appropriate grade levels. Each area of the curriculum is divided into general strands (broad categories) under which the standards fall. When we discuss “standards-based education” we mean that students are measured against their proficiency and growth towards meeting these standards. Curriculum Guides are intended for teachers, parents, and the wider school community as an overview document of the course of study for the year.

Content Standards

The content standards for Advanced Placement classes at Reading Memorial High School are set by the College Board. For more information please refer to: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-language-and-composition/course>

Essential Questions

Essential questions are questions that are not answerable with an easy answer or a simple instruction. The purpose of essential questions is to provide opportunities for inquiry into the learning and act as an umbrella to anchor the unit/lesson.

AP Exam: Multiple Choice

The Language and Composition exam includes 5 sets of multiple choice questions, each paired with a short reading passage. The multiple choice questions focus on reading skills or writing skills. This section counts for 45% of the exam score.

AP Exam: Free Response

The Language and Composition exam includes three free response questions: one synthesis question, one rhetorical analysis question, and one argument question. This section counts for 55% of the exam score.