AP Lang & Comp 2025/2026

Ms. Selle. Room 1400. 303.387.2500. lselle@dcsdk12.org

**COURSE INFORMATION AND OBJECTIVES:** Students will develop reading and writing skills as they relate to Advanced Placement Language and Composition. Students will read a variety of essays, short stories, articles, books and poetry, and they will critique film and visual art to connect literature as a record of human experience and a tool for communication. Major grades will include rhetorical analysis essays, synthesis essays, argument essays, and multiple-choice practice. Students in this class must take the AP exam at the end of the year.

**Colorado State Standards Skills for Grade 11/12:**

* Reading—Students will locate important details and author’s choices in text; analyze connotation, context, and complex nuances of language; understand the historical context of a written piece; explore a theme through multiple texts and media; identify speaker, audience, and the development/structure of purpose; examine author’s intent and tone; and identify and analyze rhetoric.
* Speaking/Listening—Students will participate in Socratic seminar, class discussions, peer review, and presentations as a way to enhance their ability to collaborate, actively listen and ask questions, distinguish between formal vs informal speech, correctly pronounce words, and deliver strong presentations and arguments.
* Writing—Students will examine and implement different methods for planning writing; create effective claims; acknowledge counterclaims; incorporate appropriate textual evidence and explain it effectively; analyze language usage; distinguish between and utilize formal and informal writing styles; use effective transitions between text segments; revise and edit written work; persuade in arguments; and sequence events logically.

Skills to be instructed and reinforced throughout the year: writing terminology (thesis/claim, evidence and commentary, introduction, conclusion); Cornell notes; annotation; perspective and point-of-view; SOAPSTEM (speaker, occasion, audience, purpose, subject, tone, exigence, message); rhetoric and persuasion (logical fallacies, reasoning, ethos/pathos/logos/telos/Kairos); higher-level thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation).

**Grading**: You will receive grades for your academic performance and your effort.

Your grades in Infinite Campus will be current at all times. Please use IC to check your progress. Canvas doesn’t count! IC is where it’s at.

Grades will include reading, writing, discussion, test prep, and behavior. Generally, an **A** on an assignment requires the inclusion of your own original thought and connections to the real world. For an **A**, in addition to including all requirements of the assignment, you must also go beyond the text and our classroom discussions. You need to put YOUR OWN ideas in your work. That’s why we study the written word; we apply it to our society and our lives. We use it to better understand our world. Include higher-level thinking: analysis (examine, compare/contrast, inspect); synthesis (connect, blend, integrate, unify); evaluation (assess, balance, decide). Your behavior in class will also affect your grade. Tardiness, use of electronics during instruction time (for activities other than schoolwork), late or missing assignments, academic dishonesty, disruptive behaviors, etc. will lower your grade and be recorded in IC. You will receive a monthly behavior grade based on the following rubric: Zero negative behaviors = A; one to two negative behaviors = B; three to five = C; six or seven = D; eight or more = F.

**2025/2026 At-a-Glance:**

**Unit Big Concepts Major Grades**

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| August/September: Intro to AP Lang foundational concepts | Speaker, audience, summer reading assignments, Cornell notes, annotation, daily warm-ups, evidence and commentary, SOAPSTEM, claim, counterclaim, thesis | Rhetorical analysis one-paragraph essay |
| October: Thesis statements through children’s literature & *People* magazine | Thesis statements, TAME, review SOAPSTEM, review evidence and commentary | One-paragraph timed write including TAME thesis, evidence, and commentary |
| November: AP textbook – Unit 2Appealing to an Audience | Rhetorical situation, claims & evidence, persuasion, syntactical choices | Persuasive argument essay |
| December:Newspaper articles and research about current issues of interest | Synthesis, higher-level thinking skills, source citation, thesis statement, evidence and commentary | Synthesis essay |
| January:Rhetorical analysis review/practice | TBD | Rhetorical analysis essay |
| February:Argument review | TBD | Argument essay |
| March:Synthesis review | TBD | Synthesis essay |
| April/May:*1984*, by George Orwell*Wall-E* (Disney/Pixar) | Dystopian themes, language evolution, the hero’s journey, compare/contrast, synthesis  | Compare/contrast essay |

***Miscellaneous Information:***

* Please bring a writing utensil *every day*.
* REVISIONS = Yes! You may revise your work for a better grade. That’s how you learn.
* Writing assignments will be completed via Google Docs or on paper. All electronic assignments: Attach and turn in on Canvas. Turn in all papers to the basket at the front of the room.
* LATE WORK & REVISIONS: Title Class Period#/name/title and share with my email if it’s electronic. (If it’s paper, put it in the basket.) You may have to share it again; that makes it show up in my inbox, which is easier for *me*. **Do not submit late work or revisions on Canvas.**
* **Parents**: If you do not want your student to view PG-13 movies, please contact Ms. Selle.

**Academic honesty**

You will do your own thinking, work, reading, and writing in this class. It is my job as your teacher to help you become a strong, independent learner with solid academic skills. You know how to make ethical and responsible decisions about your education, and I am here to support you. We'll explore when AI can be a helpful starting point for generating ideas or brainstorming and when it is **inappropriate** to use it, such as generating answers or writing essays. Per the HRHS Student Handbook, anything turned in that is not in a student’s own words constitutes cheating. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. The first offense will result in a message home and the option to redo for 50% credit. The second offense will result in a zero **without** the ability to earn credit back and a referral. Every offense beyond this will result in a zero and an additional referral and is potentially grounds for failing the class. Students who use generative AI without written instructions from the teacher that generative AI is permitted to complete that specific assignment violate the policies of the Social Studies/English Department. If the assignment doesn’t specify that AI can be used, it cannot be used. Any use of AI to complete an assignment, without written permission from the teacher, constitutes cheating and will result in the consequences outlined above.

**Class Supplies:** One spiral notebook, our current novel, a writing utensil EVERY DAY, a folder for your papers, and (optional) a computer.