

Summer Reading: AP Language and Composition



Welcome to AP Language and Composition! Throughout the school year, we will focus on the power of language and how it influences society. John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath is a perfect place to start.

- (1) **Read** chapters 1-14 of The Grapes of Wrath. You can purchase the book from a local or on-line bookstore, borrow one from a public library, or borrow a copy from Mrs. Myers or Ms. Becker during WCH the week before final exams.
- (2) **Write** a 2-page typed essay (4 pages if handwritten), explaining how John Steinbeck uses rhetorical strategies and devices (such as irony, diction, tone, repetition symbolism, connotation, juxtaposition, comparison, pathos, ethos, logos, etc.) to influence the reader. Use text evidence (direct quotes, parenthetically cited) to support your thesis, explaining how each quote supports your thesis. **DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE NOVEL!**
- (3) **Use MLA** form: 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced. See the MLA Style Guide or link on schoolnotes.com (access 21054 "Ms. J. Becker") for details.
- (4) **Use the AP Scoring Rubric** (see page 2).
- (5) **Turn in** the second day of class.
- (6) **Be prepared** to use your ideas on the first day of class.
- (7) **Contact** Mrs. Myers (COMYERS@AACPS.org) or Ms. Becker (jbecker@aacps.org) if you have questions.
- (8) Please **ask your parent** to sign this assignment sheet and turn it in with your paper.

(parent/guardian)

(date)

(printed student name)

AP Language and Composition Scoring Guidelines

9 Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for essays that are scored an 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their explanation and argument, demonstrating particularly impressive control of language.

8 Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 respond to the prompt effectively. The writer identifies his or her claim, effectively supporting his or her point with appropriate and highly effective evidence. The evidence and organization of details persuades the reader. The prose demonstrates an ability to control the elements of effective rhetorical strategies but is not necessarily flawless.

7 Essays earning a score of 7 fit the description of Essays that are scored a 6 but provide a more complete explanation and argument, which demonstrates mature rhetorical strategies.

6 Adequate

Essays earning a score of 6 respond to the prompt adequately. The writer identifies his or her claim, adequately supporting their point with evidence. The reader is somewhat persuaded and might decide to keep a more open-mind regarding the topic. The essay contains lapses in the use of rhetorical strategies, but generally the ideas are clear.

5 Essays earning a score of 5 identify the writer's claim, supporting their point with evidence. The evidence and organization of details, however, is haphazard, uneven, or inconsistent. Although the writer's ideas are conveyed, the use of rhetorical strategies is weak, containing possible logical fallacies. The reader is confused but considers keeping an open-mind regarding the topic.

4 Inadequate

Essays earning a 4 respond to the prompt inadequately. The writer does not clearly and directly identify his or her claim. The evidence is insufficient or contains certain logical fallacies. Control of language or use of rhetorical strategies may be missing. Persuasion is ineffective: the reader is offended or now too confused about the topic.

3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of 4 but demonstrate less success in conveying its point, the writer's perspective about a claim. Support is weak; logical fallacies are used. Control of language or use of rhetorical strategies is missing. Persuasion is ineffective: the reader is offended or now too confused about the topic.