

## Mr. Bosley's 11<sup>th</sup> Grade AP Language Class Blueprint

Welcome to AP Language! I am looking forward to a challenging yet rewarding year. The following information will help us get a better idea of the class ahead. I have taken the time to develop a structure, and I ask that you follow through it as I explain the information below. Please ask questions if you need further clarification as I proceed.

**Course Description:** Naturally, the AP Language and Composition exam in May is our primary objective. This exam focuses on non-fiction writing and how authors use rhetorical devices to argue and persuade. Therefore, we will be reading a wide variety of essays, articles, and memoirs to develop analytical skills and a working knowledge of rhetorical terms. Additionally, students will be taking the Common Core English exam in June, and we would be remiss not to also prepare for this exam. Although neither exam currently has fiction on it, the works of fiction we study will help to acquaint students with the concept of literature as argument and will create a forum and opportunity to connect and dissect related non-fiction pieces in continued training for the AP exam.

**Grading: Each quarter grade will consist of:**

**Homework and Classwork:** This includes assignments as well as productive participation in classroom activities. Tardiness and attendance are considered part of your class participation grade. Homework is to extend the learning process outside the classroom. It often will be a launching point for the following lesson, and is therefore highly valued. Homework will be graded.

- Late homework assignments will only be accepted up to one (1) week after I post the grades to the portal. I do this to encourage you to check the portal routinely and to keep you from dumping a bunch of makeup work on me at the end of the quarter.
  - After one (1) week has passed, the assignment will remain as an INC (incomplete) on the portal and will be factored into the average as a zero (0).
  - Homework leads to class. Late homework puts you behind in the class.
- Any homework that appears copied or paraphrased from another source will receive no credit. If another student or students is/are involved, that work will also receive no credit.

**Journal/Columnists:** You are responsible for having a journal that you must bring to each class. Periodically you will have a Device of the Day which will require you to make an entry. IF you are absent, you must get the Device of the Day from me or a classmate. Columnist Study is a quarterly assignment. You will be assigned 4 per quarter, and each is worth 50 points. Details will follow in the first week.

- Late columnist studies will only be accepted up to one (1) week after I post the grades.
  - After one (1) week has passed, the assignment will remain as an INC (incomplete) on the portal and will be factored into the average as a zero (0).
- **COLLABORATION:** I encourage you to work with others on these columnist assignments. They are difficult and require time and critical thinking. However, working together is different from copying.

- You will receive no credit for work or a portion of work that is copied or paraphrased from someone else, **AND** the other student or students will also not receive credit for that portion of the assignment.
- Respect yourself and your ideas. Do not loan out your work. If you collaborate with others and have similar ideas, make sure the wording of those ideas is your own.

**Essays/Tests/Quizzes:** Most of the assessment in this class will be written whether in essay form or short response. You will have periodic tests and quizzes over readings and vocabulary as a means of encouragement to keep current with the assignments.

\***TESTS:** Tests are worth 100 points each.

\***QUIZZES:** Quizzes are given as a check of reading completion and comprehension. Point value of each quiz will vary.

\***ESSAYS:** All timed essays are worth 50 points. All take home essays are worth 100 points. Any essay may be revised. Revisions are due by the end of the quarter in which they were assigned.

\* **VOCABULARY:** Each quarter you will be given some sort of vocabulary project. This project serves two goals: 1) I want you to learn words you don't know and use those words to enrich your writing. I do not want you to memorize a bunch of words from a list to take some quiz. 2) I want to give you an opportunity to earn some average-boosting points.

- Any assignment listed on the portal as INC must be completed within one week of its posting, or it will remain an INC and be averaged in as a ZERO.

Your quarter average will then be computed by dividing the number of points earned by the number of points possible.

### **Books We Will Be Using This Year may include:**

#### **Fiction:**

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien, The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger, The Crucible by Arthur Miller, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller, and The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

#### **Non-Fiction:**

The Best American Essays 2012 edited by David Brooks

50 Essays: A Portable Anthology edited by Samuel Cohen

The Well-Crafted Argument: A Guide and Reader by Fred D. White & Simone J. Billings

#### **Text:**

The Language of Composition by Renee Shea, Lawrence Scanlon, and Robin Aufses

**Copying/Cheating:** If I find that you have copied someone else's work, whether for a homework or writing assignment or questions on a test or quiz, both you and the student from whom you have copied will receive a zero for that assignment. Also, if I find that you have written down random answers without effort, you will receive a zero. **Value your opportunity to maintain a good reputation; practice ethical behavior. I know you have a lot this year, and you may find yourself overwhelmed. If this is the case, I would rather you asked for an extension than copy, cheat, or plagiarize just to get it in on time.**

**I know you will be tempted to work together, but your answers need to be uniquely phrased and written as your own.**

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is one form of cheating. According to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, “plagiarism has been defined as ‘the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the produce of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own.’ To use another person’s ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source is to plagiarize.” When writing papers/essays for my class, I want you to use your own analytical mind and the literature you have read. The only time you should need to cite information is when using quotations from the literature about which you are writing—unless I indicate otherwise. When analyzing literature, do not use information from sources such as SparkNotes, CliffNotes, fellow students’ essays, etc. Papers that contain plagiarism will receive a zero. After discussion, students may be given the opportunity to write the paper properly in my presence, during a time that is convenient for me. **Value your opportunity to maintain a good reputation; practice ethical behavior.**

**Year Grades:**

Your AP Language and Composition grade is an average of your four quarter grades and your Common Core English exam score. Each part is weighted equally.

**Communication:** I am available for extra help during any of my prep periods. You can also meet with me any day before or after school. You need to give me some notice before showing up and make an appointment. You can email me with questions at [jbosley@csh.k12.ny.us](mailto:jbosley@csh.k12.ny.us) or check my website for important documents. If you are struggling or have questions, come see me. I am always open to discuss.