Welcome to AP English Language and Composition
Semesters 1 & 2

This course is meticulously designed to align with state standards and targeted learning objectives, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and skills required for student success.

Course Description:
AP English Language and Composition is an advanced placement course designed to cultivate the power of language and elevate students' writing and rhetorical skills. In this course, students will engage deeply with a variety of non-fiction texts, from historical documents to contemporary articles, while learning how to analyze and critique arguments, tone, style, and content.

Through close reading, critical thinking, and intensive writing practice, students will explore the intricacies of rhetoric and master the art of persuasive communication. This course emphasizes the development of effective writing techniques, argument construction, and the ability to respond to texts with insight and clarity. Students will refine their ability to express their ideas in well-organized, compelling essays that engage their audience and convey their arguments with precision.

Designed for students seeking to improve their writing skills and prepare for the AP exam, this course will challenge students to think critically, analyze rhetorically, and write persuasively.

Semester 1: Rhetoric, Argumentation, and Persuasive Writing

Unit 1: Rhetorical Analysis and Close Reading
- **Objective:** Understand and identify rhetorical components—purpose, audience, ethos, pathos, logos.
- Analyze a variety of speeches, essays, and articles to break down rhetorical strategies.
- Develop the skill of reading texts closely, with attention to argument structure, tone, and techniques.
- Practice writing rhetorical analysis essays, responding to texts with clear, reasoned arguments.

Unit 2: Crafting Arguments and Persuasive Writing
- **Objective:** Learn how to build strong, logical arguments in persuasive writing.
- Study classic and modern models of argumentation.
- Write argumentative essays, focusing on constructing clear, logical reasoning supported by evidence.
- Explore strategies for presenting counterarguments and rebuttals effectively.
- Develop a personal voice through persuasive writing and critical essays.

Unit 3: Synthesis of Sources
- **Objective:** Synthesize multiple perspectives from various sources to build a coherent argument.
- Practice writing synthesis essays that integrate diverse viewpoints.
- Learn to evaluate sources for credibility and relevance.
- Focus on combining sources in a balanced way to support a central argument.

Semester 1 Outcomes:
- Mastery of rhetorical analysis and writing in response to rhetorical situations.
- Ability to craft well-supported, persuasive arguments.
- Skill in synthesizing information from diverse sources to support original ideas.

Semester 2: Advanced Rhetoric, Style, and AP Exam Preparation

Unit 4: Style and Language in Writing

- **Objective:** Hone your writing style with an emphasis on tone, diction, sentence structure, and rhetorical devices.
- Study the language choices of various authors and analyze their effectiveness in achieving specific goals.
- Experiment with different writing styles and tones to suit various purposes and audiences.
- Refine grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure to enhance clarity and impact.

Unit 5: Timed Writing and the AP Exam

- **Objective:** Prepare for the AP exam by practicing timed writing tasks and mock exams.
- Focus on strategies for managing time effectively during the exam.
- Analyze past AP exam prompts, practicing rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesis essays under timed conditions.
- Learn techniques for writing quickly and effectively while maintaining quality.

Unit 6: The Rhetorical and Literary Critique

- **Objective:** Critique rhetorical strategies in more advanced texts.
- Study literary and rhetorical devices in-depth and apply them in your own writing.
- Focus on crafting responses that engage critically with text and communicate insights clearly.

Semester 2 Outcomes:

- Mastery of writing with clarity, precision, and creativity, adapting style to various rhetorical situations.
- Enhanced exam performance, with strategies for timed writing and analysis.
- Ability to critique complex texts and employ sophisticated rhetorical techniques.

Course Summary

Throughout **AP English Language and Composition**, students will engage in a wide variety of activities designed to develop their rhetorical, analytical, and writing skills. The self-paced nature of the course allows students to progress at their own speed, enabling them to balance other commitments while deepening their understanding of the material. Semester 1 focuses on the fundamentals of rhetoric, argumentation, and synthesis, while Semester 2 emphasizes advanced rhetorical strategies, style development, and exam preparation. Students will leave the course with the skills needed for both the AP exam and their future academic writing endeavors.

By the end of the course, students will be well-equipped to write clearly and persuasively, analyze and critique texts deeply, and perform confidently on the AP exam.