

Ms. Parker

AP English Language and Composition

Room G101

Email: kparker@pittsburg.k12.ca.us

School Phone: (925) 473-2390 ext. 7817

Course Information

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. This course is designed to help students closely and deeply analyze argument and rhetorical strategies in a variety of genres. Over the course of the year, students will read selections of speeches, essays, articles, poetry, and novels. Students will recognize a variety of rhetorical strategies, including satire, irony, and visual arguments. By the end of the year, students will be able to write several kinds of essays, pulling evidence from a variety of sources. In May, students will take the AP English Language exam, before concluding the academic year with research projects. The course is designed to mimic a college-level Introduction of Writing course, and as such is extremely rigorous and requires students to be responsible for their own work.

The AP English Language Exam will take place on _____, May _____, 20_____

Grading

Essays are graded on the AP scale out of 9 points. Essays and assignments are then inputted to the gradebook as follows:

AP Score	Essay 1-2 (of each type)	Essay 3-5	Remaining essays
9	100	100	100
8	98	96	95
7	96	92	90
6	94	88	85
5	92	84	80
4	90	80	75
3	88	76	70
2	86	72	65
1	84	68	60

By using this scale, students are not penalized for struggling with the first attempts at writing various types of essays. Moreover, they can see their growth according to the AP scale, preparing them for the test itself. Additionally, students will begin each mode of essay writing with extra time and class-discussion, but will end each unit by completing timed writing tasks on their own. Other assignments will be graded on a completed/incomplete basis.

The course gradebook will be yearlong. Assignments will be weighted as follows:

20% In-Class Tests/Quizzes (including multiple choice tests, and the first semester final exam)

30% Major Papers

20% Homework/Classwork/Participation (including writer's notebook, participation in group and class discussions, close reading assignments, etc.)

15% Summer Homework/Timed Writings
15% All other Writing Assignments and Writer's Portfolio

Recommended Supplies

1. 3-Ring Binder with a set of five dividers (1.5-2")
2. Index Cards (At least 250)
3. A set of Highlighters (Orange, Yellow, Blue, Green Pink)
4. College Ruled Paper
5. 1 Spiral Notebook (70 pages or so, college-ruled)
6. Black or Blue Ball Point Pens
7. Post-it Notes
8. Flash Drive

Class Norms

As this is a college-level course, students will be treated as adults. Students are responsible for completing work on time, turning in work appropriately, and checking their grades. Late work will not be accepted, but all work may be revised after a conference with the teacher. Students who are absent from class are responsible for getting and completing any work on their own. Most work will be posted on Aeries and will be available in the classroom for a week.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is a serious offence; it and cheating will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic zero on the assignment and the student's parents will be contacted. Students may have the opportunity to make up the assignment but, depending on circumstances, are not guaranteed a re-write. If a re-write is granted, they must do so under the teacher's supervision and must write a formal apology explaining their choices and why cheating is wrong. In order to prevent cheating and plagiarism, I will be using turnitin.com.

Food in class

I understand that occasionally students are unable to finish their breakfasts, brunches, or lunches before class starts. I will allow students to eat in class provided that they eat quickly and quietly, and keep the classroom clean. Students who share food must share with the entire class. If students are unable to follow these expectations, eating in class will no longer be permitted.

Other course information: please sign up for remind.com and follow me on Instagram (msparkr_pitt) for the most up to date information about the class.

Dear Parents,

Hello, and welcome to AP English III at Pittsburg High School. My name is Katherine Parker and I will be teaching your child's English I course. I am very excited to start a new year with new ninth graders. Before joining the PHS family, I taught for 2 years in the Bronx, NY. Over the course of the next year, we will learn to analyze and criticize all kinds of texts. This year, my students will be asked "What is the author doing?", "why?", "how?", and "how effective is the author?", and will have to form and defend their opinions out loud and in writing. To help start the year off, please review the above course information with your child and sign the page below when completed. Tear off this signature section below and have your child return it tomorrow as part of the first homework assignment. Have your child keep the "Course Information Sheet" in his or her binder or notebook for reference. You may want to keep this top section for my contact information. Thank you for your support and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. Katherine Parker

English I

Room G101

Email: kparker@pittsburg.k12.ca.us

School Phone: (925) 473-2390 ext. 7817

-----Cut here-----

I read and I understand the above policies, procedures, and expectations.

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Parent/Guardian name (print) _____

Student signature: _____

Student name (print): _____

Class Period (circle one): 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Best phone number to reach you during the day:

Parent/Guardian Email _____