

Welcome to Advanced Placement Language and Composition. This course will help you develop your ability to analyze good writing and to identify and explain an author's meaning and his/her use of various writing strategies and other rhetorical techniques, as well as elements of his/her style. You will also develop your ability to read and write critically, and to create and sustain arguments based on readings, study, observations, and personal experiences.

Summer Reading List

This summer, you are required to read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. You may check out a copy of the novel from me, your local library, or you may purchase a copy.

Part I: Reading Assignment/*The Scarlet Letter*

Overview/Analysis of the Novel

Directions: Comment on each of the following.

1. Perception of self and others plays an important role in the novel. Cite specific passages with how society and or other characters perceive either themselves or another character. Comment on what Hawthorne is attempting to show through the passage.
2. Conflicts (internal and external) as well as motivations (reasons for a character's actions) for Dimmesdale, Chillingworth, and Hester.
3. Transformation-Identify 6 passages that deal with changes in appearance or changes in the character's persona. Be sure to cite the passage and explain how the character has changed.
4. Maintain a vocabulary list of any unfamiliar words. Look the definition up as you read (make sure you understand the definition). Be prepared to be quizzed on this vocabulary. An author's word choice is deliberate. Reading includes ownership of all vocabulary on the page of text.

Part II: Terminology for AP Language and Composition

Directions: Familiarize yourself with these terms by creating flashcards using 3x5 index cards. Place the term on one side and the definition on the other side of the card. When you return to school in the fall, please be prepared to give an example of each term. You will have several quizzes on these terms.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alliteration: The repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of consecutive words or syllables.2. Allusion: An indirect reference, often to another text or an historic event.3. Analogy: An extended comparison between two seemingly dissimilar things.4. Anaphora: The repetition of words at the beginning of successive clauses.5. Anecdote: A short account of an interesting event.6. Annotation: Explanatory or critical notes added to a text.7. Antecedent: The noun to which a later pronoun refers.8. Antimetabole: The repetition of words in an inverted order to sharpen a contrast.9. Antithesis: Parallel structure that juxtaposes contrasting ideas.10. Aphorism: A short, astute statement of a general truth.11. Appositive: A word or phrase that renames a nearby noun or pronoun.12. Archaic diction: The use of words common to an earlier time period; antiquated language.13. Argument: A statement put forth and supported by evidence.14. Aristotelian triangle: A diagram that represents a rhetorical situation as the relationship among the speaker, the subject, and the audience (see rhetorical triangle). | <ol style="list-style-type: none">57. Parody: A piece that imitates and exaggerates the prominent features of another; used for comic effect or ridicule.58. Pathos: A Greek term that refers to suffering but has come to be associated with broader appeals to emotion; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see ethos and logos).59. Persona: The speaker, voice, or character assumed by the author of a piece of writing.60. Personification: Assigning lifelike characteristics to inanimate objects.61. Polemic: An argument against an idea, usually regarding philosophy, politics, or religion.62. Polysyndeton: The deliberate use of a series of conjunctions.63. Premise: major, minor Two parts of a syllogism. The concluding sentence of a syllogism takes its predicate from the major premise and its subject from the minor premise.64. Major premise: All mammals are warm-blooded.65. Minor premise: All horses are mammals.66. Conclusion: All horses are warm-blooded (see syllogism).67. Propaganda: A negative term for writing designed to sway opinion rather than present information.68. Purpose: One's intention or objective in a speech or piece of writing.69. Refute: To discredit an argument, particularly a counterargument. |
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| <p>15. Assertion: An emphatic statement; declaration. An assertion supported by evidence becomes an argument.</p> <p>16. Assumption: A belief or statement taken for granted without proof.</p> <p>17. Asyndeton: Leaving out conjunctions between words, phrases, clauses.</p> <p>18. Attitude: The speaker's position on a subject as revealed through his or her tone.</p> <p>19. Audience: One's listener or readership; those to whom a speech or piece of writing is addressed.</p> <p>20. Bias: Prejudice or predisposition toward one side of a subject or issue.</p> <p>21. Cite: Identifying a part of a piece of writing as being derived from a source.</p> <p>22. Claim: An assertion, usually supported by evidence.</p> <p>23. Close reading: A careful reading that is attentive to organization, figurative language, sentence structure, vocabulary, and other literary and structural elements of a text.</p> <p>24. Colloquial/ism: An informal or conversational use of language.</p> <p>25. Common ground: Shared beliefs, values, or positions.</p> <p>26. Complex sentence: A sentence that includes one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.</p> <p>27. Concession: A reluctant acknowledgment or yielding.</p> <p>28. Connotation: That which is implied by a word, as opposed to the word's literal meaning (see denotation).</p> <p>29. Context: Words, events, or circumstances that help determine meaning.</p> <p>30. Coordination: Grammatical equivalence between parts of a sentence, often through a coordinating conjunction such as and, or but.</p> <p>31. Counterargument: A challenge to a position; an opposing argument.</p> <p>32. Cumulative sentence: An independent clause followed by subordinate clauses or phrases that supply additional detail.</p> <p>33. Declarative sentence: A sentence that makes a statement.</p> <p>34. Deduction: Reasoning from general to specific.</p> <p>35. Denotation: The literal meaning of a word; its dictionary definition.</p> <p>36. Diction: Word choice.</p> <p>37. Documentation: Bibliographic information about the sources used in a piece of writing.</p> <p>38. Elegiac: Mournful over what has passed or been lost; often used to describe tone.</p> <p>39. Epigram: A brief witty statement.</p> <p>40. Ethos: A Greek term referring to the character of a person; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see logos and pathos).</p> <p>41. Figurative language: The use of tropes or figures of speech; going beyond literal meaning to achieve literary effect.</p> <p>42. Figure of speech: An expression that strives for literary effect rather than conveying a literal meaning.</p> <p>43. Hyperbole: Exaggeration for the purpose of emphasis.</p> <p>44. Imagery: Vivid use of language that evokes a reader's senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing).</p> <p>45. Imperative sentence: A sentence that requests or commands.</p> <p>46. Induction: Reasoning from specific to general.</p> <p>47. Inversion: A sentence in which the verb precedes the subject.</p> <p>48. Irony: A contradiction between what is said and what is meant; incongruity between action and result.</p> <p>49. Juxtaposition: Placement of two things side by side for emphasis.</p> <p>50. Logos: A Greek term that means "word"; an appeal to logic; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see ethos and pathos).</p> <p>51. Metaphor: A figure of speech or trope through which one thing is spoken of as though it were something else, thus making an implicit comparison.</p> <p>52. Metonymy: Use of an aspect of something to represent the whole.</p> <p>53. Occasion: An aspect of context; the cause or reason for writing.</p> <p>54. Oxymoron: A figure of speech that combines two contradictory terms.</p> <p>55. Paradox: A statement that seems contradictory but is actually true.</p> <p>56. Parallelism: The repetition of similar grammatical or syntactical patterns.</p> | <p>70. Rhetoric: The study of effective, persuasive language use; according to Aristotle, use of the "available means of persuasion."</p> <p>71. Rhetorical modes: Patterns of organization developed to achieve a specific purpose; modes include but are not limited to narration, description, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, definition, exemplification, classification and division, process analysis, and argumentation.</p> <p>72. Rhetorical question: A question asked more to produce an effect than to summon an answer.</p> <p>73. Rhetorical triangle: A diagram that represents a rhetorical situation as the relationship among the speaker, the subject, and the audience (see Aristotelian triangle).</p> <p>74. Satire: An ironic, sarcastic, or witty composition that claims to argue for something, but actually argues against it.</p> <p>75. Scheme: A pattern of words or sentence construction used for rhetorical effect.</p> <p>76. Sentence patterns: The arrangement of independent and dependent clauses into known sentence constructions—such as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.</p> <p>77. Sentence variety: Using a variety of sentence patterns to create a desired effect.</p> <p>78. Simile: A figure of speech that uses "like" or "as" to compare two things.</p> <p>79. Simple sentence: A statement containing a subject and predicate; an independent clause.</p> <p>80. Source: A book, article, person, or other resource consulted for information.</p> <p>81. Speaker: A term used for the author, speaker, or the person whose perspective (real or imagined) is being advanced in a speech or piece of writing.</p> <p>82. Straw man: A logical fallacy that involves the creation of an easily refutable position; misrepresenting, then attacking an opponent's position.</p> <p>83. Style: The distinctive quality of speech or writing created by the selection and arrangement of words and figures of speech.</p> <p>84. Subject: In rhetoric, the topic addressed in a piece of writing.</p> <p>85. Subordinate clause: Created by a subordinating conjunction, a clause that modifies an independent clause.</p> <p>86. Subordination: The dependence of one syntactical element on another in a sentence.</p> <p>87. Syllogism: A form of deductive reasoning in which the conclusion is supported by a major and minor premise (see premise; major, and minor).</p> <p>88. Syntax: Sentence structure.</p> <p>89. Synthesize: Combining or bringing together two or more elements to produce something more complex.</p> <p>90. Thesis: The central idea in a work to which all parts of the work refer.</p> <p>91. Thesis statement: A statement of the central idea in a work, may be explicit or implicit.</p> <p>92. Tone: The speaker's attitude toward the subject or audience.</p> <p>93. Topic sentence: A sentence, most often appearing at the beginning of a paragraph, that announces the paragraph's idea and often unites it with the work's thesis.</p> <p>94. Trope: Artful diction; the use of language in a nonliteral way; also called a figure of speech.</p> <p>95. Understatement: Lack of emphasis in a statement or point; restraint in language often used for ironic effect.</p> <p>96. Voice: In grammar, a term for the relationship between a verb and a noun (active or passive voice). In rhetoric, a distinctive quality in the style and tone of writing.</p> <p>97. Zeugma: A construction in which one word (usually a verb) modifies or governs—often in different, sometimes incongruent ways—two or more words in a sentence.</p> |
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Become familiar with these terms as this is the first step in a long journey to developing a new skill. There is very little "memorization" needed, but you will need to establish good habits of focused and concentrated reading in preparation for this class. There are no shortcuts!

Please contact Mr. Stravino with any questions on the course or Summer Assignment.

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