

**West Linn–Wilsonville School District**  
**English Language Arts – Course Statement**

**Course Title: English 11 Advanced Placement (AP) – Language/Composition**

**Length of Course:** Year  
**Number of Credits:** 2  
**Grade Level:** 11  
**Prerequisites:** Staff recommendations; essay/writing samples; placement by English teacher; complete summer reading  
**CIM Work Samples Offered in Course:** Writing work samples  
**Date of Description/Revision:** February 2002

**Course Overview**

English 11 AP - Language/Composition enables students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts; and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Students' writing and reading should demonstrate an understanding of the interactions between a writer's purpose and an audience's expectations as well as the way generic conventions and the richness of language contribute to writing effectiveness.

**Essential Questions**

**Concepts providing focus for student learning**

- How does an author use literary elements and devices to his or her own end?
- How does the context in which an author writes influence his or her work?
- How does literature reflect and influence culture?
- How do I draw connections to literature to develop a focus for my life?
- How can I recognize, appreciate, and apply various stylistic and rhetorical modes?
- How do we codify our thoughts?
- How do we perceive ourselves and how have others perceived us?
- What are our cultural roots and how do they affect our society?
- How can I develop an appreciation for different cultural voices and perspectives?
- How do individuals adapt or cope with new environments or cultures?
- How can I understand the relationship of my personal growth, the evolution of American culture, the evolution of the United States, and the literature reflecting this country's changing contemporary values?
- What values can be drawn between liberty and authority, innocence and experience, challenge and success?

**Proficiency Statements**

- Upon completion of course, students will be able to:
- Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of

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rhetorical strategies and techniques.

- Apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing.
- Create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and or personal experience.
- Demonstrate understanding and mastery of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writings.
- Write in a variety of genres and contexts, both formal and informal, employing appropriate conventions.
- Move effectively through the states of the writing process, with careful attention to inquiry, research, drafting, revising, editing, and review.

**General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes**

Semester 1

A. Fiction

- *Great Gatsby, The*
- *Crucible, The*

E. Non-Fiction

- Various essays and excerpts

C. Writing

- Definition
- Personal experience
- Persuasive
- Compare and contrast
- Cause and effect
- Thesis
- Timed write

Semester 2

D. Fiction

- *Catcher in the Rye, The*
- *Civil Disobedience*
- *Catch-22*

E. Non-Fiction

- Various essays and excerpts

D. Writing

- Thesis
- Timed write

**Resources**

- Text: *Prentice Hall Literature – Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes - The American Experience*, Prentice Hall, 2000
- Other: See “General Course Topics” for additional resources