

## AP English Language & Composition

### Summer Assignment (2026–2027)

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#### Purpose

AP English Language & Composition focuses on how writers **use language to argue, persuade, and shape meaning**. This summer assignment prepares you for the three major AP tasks:

- Rhetorical Analysis
- Argument Writing
- Synthesis of Ideas Across Texts

#### Part I: Independent Reading

##### Directions

Choose **TWO** of the following texts to read over the summer:

- The Scarlet Letter
- Hamlet
- Life of Pi
- Jane Eyre
- The Crucible
- Profiles in Courage

##### Reading Expectations

As you read, you should annotate for:

- Author's purpose
- Intended audience
- Central arguments or themes
- Rhetorical strategies (tone, diction, syntax, symbolism, appeals)

#### Part II: Rhetorical Reading Journal (Core Assignment)

You will complete 4 journal entries per book (8 total).

**Each Entry (≈1 page) must include:**

## 1. Claim / Purpose

- What is the author arguing, suggesting, or revealing?

## 2. Rhetorical Analysis

- Identify TWO rhetorical strategies
- Explain:
  - HOW they work
  - WHY the author uses them

## 3. Evidence

- Include at least one embedded quote
- Analyze it (no summary)

## 4. Connection

- Connect to another text
- Connect to a modern issue
- Connect to personal or societal experience

## Part III: AP Writing Tasks (College Board Aligned)

### 1. Rhetorical Analysis Essay (1–1.5 pages)

Choose a passage from **ONE text**.

#### Prompt (AP Style):

Analyze how the author uses rhetorical strategies to develop a complex message about society, identity, or morality.

#### Expectations:

- Clear, defensible thesis
- 2–3 body paragraphs
- Specific textual evidence
- Commentary explaining impact

### 2. Argument Essay (1–2 pages)

#### Prompt:

*“True courage requires defying societal expectations.”*

Using **ONE of your chosen texts**, develop an argument in which you:

- Take a clear position
- Use evidence from the text
- Incorporate real-world or historical examples
- Address a counterargument

*(This prompt intentionally connects strongly to Profiles in Courage and The Crucible, but can apply to all texts.)*

### 3. Synthesis Mini-Task (1 page)

Using **BOTH texts**, respond to:

*How do authors use language to challenge or reinforce societal norms?*

#### Requirements:

- Use BOTH texts
- Compare rhetorical strategies
- Develop one clear, unified claim

### Part IV: Annotation Check (First Week of School)

You must submit:

- Annotated books **OR**
- A notebook including:
  - Key quotes
  - Rhetorical devices
  - Notes on author's purpose

### Suggested Summer Timeline (Balanced Workload)

#### June (Weeks 1–3)

- Begin Book #1
- Complete 2 journal entries

#### Late June–Early July

- Finish Book #1
- Complete 2 more journal entries
- Write Rhetorical Analysis Essay

### **Mid–Late July**

- Begin Book #2
- Complete 2 journal entries

### **Early August**

- Finish Book #2
- Complete 2 journal entries
- Write Argument Essay

### **Late August**

- Complete Synthesis Task
- Review annotations

### **Grading Breakdown**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Points</b>
Journals (8 total)	40
Rhetorical Analysis Essay	20
Argument Essay	20
Synthesis Task	10
Annotation Check	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>