

Mr. Parsons
AP Language
Syllabus JParsons@Winthrop.k12.ma.us

Course Overview

This course is designed with two objectives in mind: to learn to argue through writing and to gain advanced college credit by passing the AP exam. The class is focused on arguments for social change. We will analyze the strategies used by the world's most persuasive writers. We will also learn to argue for social change ourselves, tackling issues such as gun control, drug laws, women's and minorities' rights, the environment, taxes, education, the food industry, technology, and advertising. Writing assignments will be based on past AP prompts and contemporary and historical essays, speeches, news, and satire.

Timed writing will be a regular occurrence in this class. It is the only way to prepare for the pressures of the exam in May, and it's a great way to practice thinking and arguing on the fly.

Course Objectives

Throughout this course, students will:

- Analyze and discuss many works of literature.
- Incorporate appropriate grammar and mechanics in all work.
- Improve skills in oral and written communication.
- Master MLA format throughout writing assignments.
- Present speeches, poems and dramatic scenes.

Classroom Expectations and Consequences

In this classroom, you are expected:

- To have an open mind and be creative!
- To be on time and be sitting quietly in your seat when the bell rings;
- To always come to class prepared with binder, paper, pens/pencils, appropriate textbooks, completed assignments, and any other materials that you are instructed to bring (Additionally, always have with you something to read should you have free time);
- To follow all directions given by the teacher or included on an assignment;
- To meet all deadlines (Assignments are due at 7:55am on the due date);
- To be academically honest (plagiarizing and cheating will NOT be tolerated);
- To respect other students and the teacher by being attentive when others are speaking, raising your hand to speak, and not being disruptive;
- To be courteous to others by respecting their personal space;
- To actively participate in group discussions and activities; and

- To follow ALL school rules as described in the Student Handbook.

Extra Help

Extra help should be made by appointment. Any parent or guardian who would like to meet, please email/call ahead to schedule a time. I can meet before or after school if need be.