

## AP English Literature and Composition: Objectives

### Taken from the College Board: AP Course Description

(<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-english-literature-and-composition-course-description.pdf>)

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#### Reading Objectives

**R1:** The student reads/studies representative works from various genres and time periods (from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century) with the goal of knowing a few works well.

**R2:** The student understands a work's thematic meaning and recognizes its complexity, as well as smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

**R3:** The student reads deliberately and thoroughly to deepen understanding of the ways writers use language to provide meaning and pleasure and to analyze how meaning is embodied in literary form.

**R4:** The student engages in close reading to consider the social and historical values a work reflects and embodies.

**R5:** The student makes careful observations of textual detail, establishes connections among observations, and draws from those connections a series of inferences leading to an interpretive conclusion about a piece of writing's meaning and value.

**R6:** The student demonstrates an understanding of allusion, including Biblical and Classical mythology, and how various concepts and stories have influenced and informed Western literary creation.

**R7:** The student engages in lively, thought-provoking, intelligent discussions that explore a work's complexity, its richness of meaning and how meaning is embodied in literary form.

**R8:** To become aware of literary tradition and the complex ways in which literature builds upon the ideas, works, and authors of earlier times.

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#### Writing Objectives

**W1:** To use writing as a vehicle to understand, to explain, and to evaluate a work of literature through expository, analytical, and argumentative essays.

**W2:** The student composes pieces in response to well-constructed creative writing assignments that allow students to see from the inside how literature is written.

**W3:** The student develops stylistic maturity in one's writing that develops and organizes ideas in clear, coherent, and persuasive language.

**W4:** The student produces writing with stylistic maturity, characterized by

- a wide-ranging vocabulary, using words with denotative accuracy and connotative resourcefulness.
- a variety of sentence structures, including appropriate use of subordinate and coordinate constructions.
- logical organization, enhanced by specific techniques of coherence such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis.
- a balance of generalization with specific illustrative detail.
- an effective use of rhetoric, including controlling tone, maintaining a consistent voice, and achieving emphasis through parallelism and antithesis.

**W5:** The student engages in numerous opportunities to write and rewrite, producing writing that

- a. is informal and exploratory, allowing students to discover what they think in the process of writing about their reading.
- b. involves research, perhaps negotiating differing critical perspectives.
- c. entails extended discourse in which students develop an argument or present an analysis at length.
- d. encourages students to write effectively under the time constraints they encounter on essay exams in college courses in many disciplines.

**W6:** The student prepares for the multiple choice and essay questions of the AP English Literature exam through exercises analyzing short prose passages and poems and through practicing with cold reads and "open" analytical questions.

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