



Worthington Kilbourne High School Course Advisory Sheet

English

English III/AP Language

Scope and sequence of the standard-level and advanced course:

English III covers American Literature, mainly from 1600-present. Course goals include increasing stamina for reading and comprehension.

AP Lang students should be prepared to take home, on average, at least one hour of homework each night. They should be ready to work both independently and collaboratively at a high level of performance. Out-of-school conferences with both the instructor and peers are required components of the course. All texts are College Board approved, which means that they are at a college reading level. At its essence, AP Language and Composition is a study of rhetoric, a study of how writers and speakers use language to craft a message for an audience within a given context. Close analysis of text is the primary task of this course.

In a standard-level course, students who typically perform well...

- Attend class every day with all necessary materials, including the American Literature textbook
- Read one outside-of-class novel per quarter
- Write one major essay per quarter
- Prepare for written assessments in a variety of genres, including literary analysis, personal narrative, argument, and research
- Expect to read 50 pages of assigned reading per week for class discussion, activities, and assessments
- Self-advocate, especially for additional help on long-term writing and reading assignments
- Prepare and deliver both individual and group presentations on course content
- Engage in both graded and nongraded discussions

Advanced course students accept additional responsibilities for:

- Read one choice book of higher literary rigor per quarter outside of class
- Produce a variety of high-quality personal narratives and reflections
- Produce a research paper on a controversial social issue
- Engage in close analysis of non-fiction texts and produce both verbal and written rhetorical analysis on these texts
- Produce critical reading journals on a variety of texts
- Participate proactively in both formal and informal discussions
- Complete an independent author study that culminates in a formal presentation and a compare and contrast paper
- Complete in-class timed writing assignments and take responsibility for one's own improvement on these writings in preparation for the AP exam
- Practice answering AP style multiple choice questions in preparation for the AP exam
- Produce a variety of creative writing assignments
- Read at least one of Shakespeare's plays, as well as a variety of other texts that are not works of American literature

From a student's perspective:

"Taking honors and AP courses starting my freshman year required me to jump out of my comfort zone and take a risk. I decided to value what I would learn rather than the grade I would receive. Many students like myself began high school with the goal of receiving "All A's" or having a 4.0 GPA. Through challenging courses, I realized the true value of my education and the greater feeling of accomplishment that came from a "B" in an accelerated class rather than an "A" that came with no cost."

	Example of text from an advanced course textbook
<p>From: <i>Elements of Literature, Third Course, from Holt, Rhinehart, and Winstron</i></p> <p><i>Life on the Mississippi</i> by Mark Twain</p> <p>A Cub-Pilot's Experience</p> <p>What with lying on the rocks four days at Louisville, and some other delays, the poor old <i>Paul Jones</i> fooled away about two weeks in making the voyage from Cincinnati to New Orleans. This gave me a chance to get acquainted with one of the pilots, and he taught me how to steer the boat, and thus made the fascination of river life more potent than ever for me....</p>	<p>From: <i>All the King's Men</i>, by Robert Penn Warren</p> <p>"We sat down at the table, Old Man Stark at one end and Lucy at the other. Lucy wiped the perspiration-soaked wisp of hair back from her face, and gave that last-minute look around the table to see if anything was missing, like a general inspecting the troops. She was in her element, all right. She had been out of it for a long time, but when you dropped her back in it she hit running, like a cat out of a sack. The jaws got to work around the table, and she watched them work. She sat there, not eating much and keeping a sharp eye out for a vacant place on any plate and watching the jaws work, and as she sat there, her face seemed to smooth itself out and relax with an inner faith in happiness the way the face of the chief engineer does when he goes down to the engine room at night and the big wheel is blurred out with its speed and the pistons plunge and return and the big steel throws are leaping in their perfect orbits like a ballet, and the whole place, under the electric glare, hums and glitters and sings like the eternal insides of God's head, and the ship is knocking off twenty-two knots on a glassy, starlit sea."</p>
Example of a task from a standard-level course	Example of a task from an advanced course
<p>In reading from <i>Life on the Mississippi</i> by Mark Twain, students would study voice which is the writer's unique use of language. They would also be asked to decipher diction and tone. Because Twain uses dialect, understatement and hyperbole, it is advisable to paraphrase difficult passages for understanding. A chart could be used with three columns; one that is titled "Difficult Passage", a second titled "Literal Paraphrase, and third titled "Final Paraphrase (when appropriate).</p>	<p>Based on the documentaries "The Message of Myth" and "The Hero's Adventure" and our in-class discussions of them, what do you understand about the concepts of original sin and the hero's journey? Write a paragraph explaining these ideas as they relate to one or more of the characters from Robert Penn Warren's novel <i>All the King's Men</i>. Be sure to explicitly state one or more of the claims that Warren develops in regard to the idea of original sin and then support your responses with detailed examples from the novel.</p>

