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2016-2017 Academic Year

To fall **Honors English** or **AP English** students and their parents:

You have the opportunity this summer to prepare for the challenge of the Honors or AP course you have chosen for next fall. These rigorous Honors and AP courses, including the summer preparation, will guide you to an additional opportunity: achieving the critical-thinking skills necessary when taking the AP Language and Composition Exam (11<sup>th</sup> grade) and AP Literature and Composition Exam (12<sup>th</sup> grade).

More specifically, to create a rigorous and continuous AP vertically-aligned curriculum in grades nine through twelve, **we strongly encourage you to complete during the summer the reading and accompanying course-specific assignment which will be due by the end of the second week of school (trimester one)**. The goal is to have you step into the classroom in the fall ready to learn. In the event that the summer is completely booked for you, you will still be able to complete the work in the fall; it will just be added to the expected fall course work.

Below you will find information specific to your course:

## **AP Literature and Composition Course Description**

The course is designed for college-bound students with an above average command of literature, language, and grammar skills. The course includes both the reading and analysis of discursive prose and the study of the process of writing – from the discovery of the topic to the preliminary drafts to the final edited edition. Students will study examples of prose and poetry from various fields and periods. These examples will serve as models of effective styles and the students will write a variety of writing assignments calling for the use of different styles or tones. Through the study and practice, students gain the understanding of principles of effective writing and structures of sentences, paragraphs, and larger discursive patterns of writing. Students, after exposure to large quantities of literature in depth and substance, are expected to organize and write intelligent discussions, and papers in response. They should achieve sensitivity to logic and coherence. The students will find a great deal of outside reading involved with this course. The course also focuses on the ability to speak well in front of a group and hold down a conversation about a text.

## **AP Literature and Composition (Grade 12) Summer Reading Assignment**

**In order to prepare for both the course and the summer reading assignments, we ask that you have the following materials to use exclusively for AP Literature and Composition:**

**Class notebook (either wide ruled or college ruled)**

**Post-it notes and/or tabs**

**Highlighter pens**

**4x6 and 3x5 note cards**

## **TASK ONE**

Read through the attached list of rhetorical strategies and literary devices. Put a check mark next to the terms you feel confident in both knowing the definition and being able to identify an example of the device. Circle the terms that you are familiar with but may not be able to identify. Highlight those terms that are not familiar to you. We will begin work with these terms by the second week of class.

## **TASK TWO**

Check out a copy of Aristotle's *Poetics* from the ERHS media center during the following times:

June 8th: after school

June 9th: before school

June 14th: 9:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m.

Read pages 3-32 and pages 38-48 of the text. Take notes in your preferred format (digital, Cornell, tabbing, section summaries, post-it, etc). These notes are due during the second week of class. Additionally, the notes will be of use to you on an assessment related to this text.

## **TASK THREE**

Read and annotate in your preferred format the article "[No, You're Not Entitled to Your Opinion](#)" by [Patrick Stokes](#). We will discuss this article in class during the first few days.

## **TASK FOUR**

Read through the hyperlinked excerpt of Strunk and White's [Elements of Style](#). Take notes in your preferred format. Additionally, read pages 7-12 and 18-24 of Zinnser's [On Writing Well](#). Be attentive to and take notes on the rationale Zinnser offers for the rules that Strunk and White present.

Thank you for your interest and your willingness while participating in this rigorous course. If you have additional questions before summer begins, please contact Ms. Carbone (room 1032 or via email at [gcarbone@apps.district833.org](mailto:gcarbone@apps.district833.org)) or Mr. Hayes (room 1033 or via email at [ahayes@apps.district833.org](mailto:ahayes@apps.district833.org)).

Have a wonderful summer; we look forward to working with you in the fall.

ERHS English Department

## AP Rhetorical Strategies and Literary Devices

**Study this list of rhetorical strategies and literary devices. You should not only know the definitions but also be able to identify and analyze the purpose and effect of the strategies/devices within a text. Additionally, it is expected that you are able to engage in analytical, academic conversations using these terms.**

**Allegory**—a story in which the narrative or characters carry an underlying symbolic, metaphorical, or ethical meaning

**Alliteration**— the repetition of one or more initial consonants in a group of words or lines of poetry or prose

**Allusion**—a reference to something literary, mythological, or historical that the author assumes the reader will recognize; creates an effect or enhances the meaning

**Ambiguity**—a vagueness of meaning; a conscious lack of clarity meant to evoke multiple meanings of an idea

**Anachronism**— a person, scene, event, or other element in literature that fails to correspond with the time or era in which the work is set

**Analogy**—a comparison that points out similarities between two dissimilar things

**Antagonist** — a character or force in a work of literature that, but opposing the protagonist produces tension or conflict

**Antithesis**—a statement in which two opposing ideas are balanced

**Aphorism**—a concise, statement that expresses succinctly a general truth or idea

**Apostrophe** — a rhetorical device in which a speaker addresses a person or personified thing not present

**Archetype** — an original model or form

**Assonance**-- repetition of similar vowel sounds, preceded and followed by different consonants, in the stressed syllables of adjacent words

**Ballad** — a simple narrative verse that tells a story that is sung or recited

**Bathos**— the use of insincere or overdone sentimentality

**Bildungsroman** — a German word referring to a novel structured as a series of events that take place as the hero travels in quest of a goal

**Blank verse** — poetry written in iambic pentameter, the primary meter used in English poetry; it is “blank” because the lines generally do not rhyme

**Bombast** — inflated, pretentious language used for trivial subjects

**Cacophony** — grating, inharmonious sounds

**Caesura** — a pause somewhere in the middle of a verse, often (but not always) marked by punctuation

**Canon** — the works considered most important in a national literature or period; works widely read and studied

**Catharsis** — a cleansing of the spirit brought about by the pity and terror of a dramatic tragedy

**Climax**—the high point, or turning point, of a story or play

**Conceit**—a fanciful, particularly clever thought often stated in figurative language

**Connotation**—the implied or associative meaning of a word

**Consonance** — the repetition of two or more consonant sounds in a group of words or a line of poetry

**Couplet** — a pair of rhyming lines in a poem; two rhyming lines in iambic pentameter is called *heroic couplet*

**Denotation**—the literal meaning of a word

**Denouement** — the resolution that occurs at the end of a play or work of fiction

**Diction**—the word choices made by a writer

**Dramatic irony** — a circumstance in which the audience or reader knows more about a situation than a character

**Elegy** — a poem or prose selection that laments or meditates on the passing or death of something or someone of value

**End stopped** — describes a line of poetry that ends with a natural pause often indicated by a mark of punctuation

**Enjambment** — in poetry, the use of successive lines with no punctuation or pause between them

**Euphony** — pleasing, harmonious sounds

**Euphemism** — a mild or less negative usage for a harsh or blunt term

**Extended metaphor** — a series of comparisons between two unlike objects

**Falling action** — the action in a play or story that occurs after the climax and that leads to the conclusion and often to the resolution of the conflict

**Farce** — a comedy that contains an extravagant and nonsensical disregard of seriousness, although it may have a serious, scornful purpose

**Figurative language**—language employing one or more figures of speech to imply meaning (simile, metaphor, personification, etc.)

**First-person narrative** — a narrative told by a character involved in the story

**Foil** — a minor character whose personality or attitude contrasts with that of the main character; juxtaposing one character against another intensifies the qualities of both

**Foot** — a unit of stressed and unstressed syllables used to determine the meter of a poetic line

**Foreshadowing** — providing hints of things to come in a story or play

**Frame** — a structure that provides premise or setting for a narrative

**Hubris** — excessive pride that often leads tragic heroes to their death

**Hyperbole**— intentional exaggeration to create an effect

**Imagery**—the use of language to create vivid images that appeal to the five senses (taste, touch, sound, smell, sight)

**Irony**—the use of words in which the intended meaning is the opposite of what is stated; incongruity between what is expected and what actually occurs (situational, verbal, dramatic)

**Jargon**—the specialized language or vocabulary of a particular group or profession

**Juxtaposition**—placing two elements side by side to present a comparison or contrast

**Litotes** — a form of understatement in which the negative of the contrary is used to achieve emphasis or intensity. (Ex. He is not a bad dancer.)

**Lyric poetry** — personal, reflective poetry that reveals the speaker's thoughts and feelings about the subject

**Melodrama** — a literary form in which events are exaggerated in order to create an extreme emotional response

**Metaphor**—a direct comparison of two unlike things

**Meter** — the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables found in poetry

**Metonymy** — a figure of speech that uses the name of one thing to represent something else with which it is associated

**Mood**—the emotional atmosphere of a work of literature

**Motif**—a phrase, idea, or event that through repetition serves to unify or convey a theme in a work of literature

**Narrative** — a form of verse or prose that tells a story

**Ode** — a lyric poem usually marked by serious, respectful, and exalted feelings toward the subject

**Omniscient narrator** — a narrator with unlimited awareness, understanding, and insight of characters, setting, background, and all other elements of the story

**Onomatopoeia** — the use of words whose sounds suggest their meaning (Ex. bubbling, murmuring brooks)

**Oxymoron** — a term consisting of contradictory element juxtaposed to create a paradoxical effect (Ex. loud silence, jumbo shrimp)

**Paradox**—an apparently contradictory statement that actually contains some truth

**Parody** — an imitation of a work meant to ridicule its style and subject

**Pathos**—the quality in a work that prompts the reader to experience emotions such as pity or sorry

**Pentameter** — a verse with five poetic feet per line

**Personification**—endowing non-human objects or creatures with human qualities or characteristics

**Plot**—the interrelationship among the events in a story; the plot line is the pattern of events

**Point of view** — the relation in which a narrator or speaker stands to the story or subject matter of a poem; a story told in the first person has an internal point of view; an observer uses an external point of view

**Prosody** — the grammar of meter and rhythm in poetry

**Protagonist** — the main character in a work of literature

**Pun** — a humorous play on words, using similar- sounding or identical words to suggest different meanings

**Quatrain** — a four-line poem or a four-line unit of a longer poem

**Rhetoric** — the language of a work and its style; words, often highly emotional, used to convince or sway an audience

**Rhyme** — the repetition of similar sounds at regular intervals, used mostly in poetry

**Rhyme scheme** — the pattern of rhymes within a given poem

**Rhythm** — the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables that make up a line of poetry

**Satire** — a literary style used to poke fun at, attack or ridicule and idea, vice, or foible, often for the purpose of inducing change

**Setting** — the total environment for the action in a novel or play; includes time, place, historical milieu, and social, political, and even spiritual circumstances

**Simile**—a comparison of two things using “like,” “as,” or other specifically comparative words

**Sonnet** — a form of verse consisting of fourteen lines and a prescribed rhyme scheme

**Stanza** — a group of two or more lines in poetry combined according to subject matter, rhyme, or some other plan

**Stream of Consciousness**— a style of writing in which the author tries to reproduce the random flow of thoughts in the human mind

**Structure**—the arrangement or framework of a sentence, paragraph, essay, or entire work

**Style**—the manner in which an author uses and arranges words, shapes, ideas, forms sentences, and creates a structure to convey ideas

**Subplot** — a subordinate or minor collection of events in a novel or play, usually connected to the main plot

**Symbolism** — the use of one object to evoke ideas and associations not literally part of the original object

**Synecdoche** — a figure of speech in which a part signifies the whole or the whole signifies the part

**Syntax**—the manner in which words are arranged in sentences

**Theme**—a central idea of a work; the writer’s perspective/view about the topic; often an abstract idea upon which a work of literature is built

**Tone**—the attitude of a writer, usually implied, toward the subject or audience; emotion that pervades a work or a part of a work

**Tragedy** — a form of literature in which the hero is destroyed by some character flaw and a set of forces that cause the hero considerable anguish

**Verbal irony** — a discrepancy between the true meaning of a situation and the literal meaning of the written or spoken words

**Verse** — a synonym for poetry; also a group of lines in a song or poem; also a line of poetry

**Voice** — the real or assumed personality used by a writer

### **Work Cited**

Ehrenhaft, George. “Glossary of Literary and Rhetorical Terms.” *Barron’s AP English Literature and Composition*. 3rd ed. New York: Barron’s Educational Series, Inc., 2010. Print.