

AP ENGLISH INFORMATION

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The AP Program offers 34 courses in 19 subject areas.
- Nearly 60 percent of U.S. high schools participate in the AP Program. In those schools, 937,951 students took AP Exams in 2002.
- In 2002, 1,585,516 AP Exams were administered worldwide.
- More than 60,000 teachers worldwide attended AP workshops and institutes for professional development last year.
- Over 90 percent of the nation's colleges and universities have an AP policy granting incoming students credit, placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam grades.

WELCOME TO THE AP PROGRAM

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) is a collaborative effort between motivated students, dedicated teachers, and committed high schools, colleges, and universities. Since its inception in 1955, the Program has allowed millions of students to take college-level courses and exams, and to earn college credit or placement while still in high school.

Most colleges and universities in the United States, as well as colleges and universities in 22 other countries, have an AP policy granting incoming students credit,

placement, or both on the basis of their AP Exam grades. Many of these institutions grant up to a full year of college credit (sophomore standing) to students who earn a sufficient number of qualifying grades.

Each year, an increasing number of parents, students, teachers, high schools, and college and universities turn to the AP Program as a model of educational excellence.

Thirty four AP courses in a wide variety of subject areas are currently available. Developed by a committee of college faculty and AP teach-

ers, each AP course covers the breadth of information, skills, and assignments found in the corresponding college course.

Students can find more information at the AP student site (www.collegeboard.com/apstudents).



Each course has a corresponding exam that participating school worldwide administer in May.

HOW TO SELECT YOUR COURSES

Create a Solid Academic Portfolio. Your course schedule may seem like a random selection of classes to you, but college admission officers see it as the blueprint of your high school education. They are looking for a solid foundation of learning that you can build on in college. Take at least five solid aca-

demic classes every semester. If you are interested in a subject that is not offered at our school – say, botany, technical writing, instrumental music, etc. – don't give up on your interest. Mitchell High School allows motivated students to pursue independent studies, often with a teacher as an adviser. Be-

cause rigorous standards exist for independent study, be sure to talk to a counselor or teacher to find out if independent study is an option for you, and what requirements may exist.

Be sure to meet with your counselor or adviser, who can help you with your personal needs.

SQ3R: A READING TECHNIQUE

SQ3R stands for Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review. It is a proven technique to sharpen textbook reading skills. In college, you'll frequently be assigned multiple chapters for several different courses in books that can be quite complicated. SQ3R helps make reading purposeful and meaningful, so that you use your time most effectively. Here's how this strategy works:

SURVEY

Get an idea of what the chapter

is about by reviewing the highlights:

- Read the title, headings, and subheadings
- Take note of words that are italicized or bold
- Look at charts, graphs, pictures, maps, and other visual material
- Read captions
- Read the very beginning and end of the chapter

QUESTION

As you survey the text, ask a question for each section. Ask what, why, how, when, who and where questions as they relate to the content. You can create questions by:

- Turning the title, headings, or subheadings into questions
- Rewriting the questions at the end of the chapter or after each subheading in your own words



SQ3R helps make reading purposeful and meaningful, so that you use your time most effectively.

THE THREE “R’S” OF READING (SQ3R)

READ

Read one section of a chapter at a time, actively looking for an answer to your question for that section. Pay attention to bold and italicized text that authors use to make important points. Be sure to review everything in the section, including tables, graphs, and illustrations, as these features can communicate an idea more powerfully than written text.

RECITE

At the end of each section, look

up from the text and in your own words recite an answer to your question for that section. Then write down your answer. Be sure to provide examples to support it.

Now repeat Question, Read, and Recite steps for each section of the chapter or assigned reading. First ask a question for the next section. Then read to find the answer. Finally, recite the answer in your own words and jot it down. The written questions and answers will help you study in the future.

REVIEW

After completing each chapter or reading assignment, review your notes. Identify the main points of the reading by looking for the most important idea in each section. Recite, or write, a brief summary of the chapter or assignment.

Review your study notes every week to help you remember the information. When it's time to study for your tests, you'll find you've created an invaluable guide.

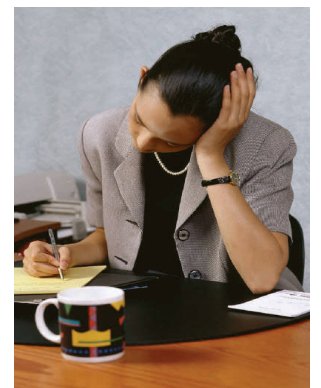
“Be sure to review everything in the section, including tables, graphs, and illustrations, as these features can communicate an idea more powerfully than written text.”

DECIDE WHERE AND WHEN TO STUDY

Come up with a specific plan for where and what you'll study during any gaps in your schedule. In addition to making use of transitional times during the day, it's generally a good idea to avoid studying too late at night, when you tend to be tired, work inefficiently, and forget much of the material you cover. The

best places to study have good light, comfortable temperature, and good desk space. Beyond that, different environments have their own pros and cons. Ultimately, the decision of where to study depends on two factors: the environment in which you are best able to concentrate and the type of work you are plan-

ning to do. For completing problem sets or brainstorming possible test questions, you may want to study with a group or at least in a setting where others in the class are available for discussion. When you are reading difficult material or working on a research paper, by contrast, you are probably better off in a less social environment.



The best places to study have good light, comfortable temperature, and good desk space.

AP ENGLISH READING

The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students can deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students should consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

The course includes intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. The works chosen invite and gratify rereading. Reading is both wide and deep. This reading necessarily builds upon the reading done in previous English courses. This course includes the in-depth reading of texts drawn from multiple genres, periods, and cultures, but, more importantly, students get to know a few works well. They will read deliberately

and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In addition to considering a work's literary artistry, students will consider the social and historical values it reflects and embodies. Careful attention to both textual detail and historical context will provide a foundation for interpretation, whatever critical perspectives are brought to bear on the literary works studied.



Study hard and use your time wisely.

BOOST YOUR NOTETAKING SKILLS

Getting the most out of high school and college means studying hard and using your time in class wisely. Make the most of your time in class and out with an effective note-taking strategy.

Stay Organized

It may seem obvious, but your class notes can only help you if you can find them. When you're taking notes be sure to:

Keep all your notes for one class in one place.

Date and number pages to keep them in order and make it easier to refer back to them.

Before Class

Review the materials assigned for that class period thoroughly. Bring a list of questions you may have from the reading and be sure to get answers.

During Class

Start by using the main section of your notebook page to take

down your notes during class. Be sure to leave space on the left side of the page and the bottom. Get the speaker's main points. Don't write down every word you hear.

Leave blanks in your notes to add explanations later.

Organize as you write. Pay attention to cues such as repetition and emphasis.

Indicate main points and supporting points as you go.

“Get the speaker's main points. Don't write down every word you hear. “

AP ENGLISH WRITING

Close reading involves the experience of literature, the interpretation of literature, and the evaluation of literature. All these aspects of reading are important for an AP course in English Literature and Composition, and each corresponds to an approach to writing about literary works. Writing to understand a literary work may involve writing response and reaction papers along with annotation, freewrit-

ing, and keeping some form of a reading journal. Writing to explain a literary work involves analysis and interpretation, and may include writing brief focused analyses on aspects of language and structure. Writing to evaluate a literary work involves making and explaining judgments about its artistry and exploring its underlying social and cultural values through analysis, interpretation, and argument.

Writing will be an integral part of the AP English Literature and Composition course, focused on the critical analysis of literature and will include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Critical analysis makes up the bulk of student writing for the course; the goal of these writing assignments is to increase students' ability to explain clearly, cogently, even elegantly, what they understand about literary works and why they interpret them as they do.



Taking good notes requires practice.

INFORMATION SOURCE

<http://www.collegeboard.com/>

MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL WWW.MITCHELL.K12.SD.US

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Mitchell High School

****Reading furnishes the mind only with material for knowledge; it is in thinking that makes what we read ours.****
~John Locke~

HELPFUL HOMEWORK TIPS

Set the Mood

Create a good study area with all the stuff you need (for example, a dictionary). If you don't have a quiet place at home, try the school or local library.

KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN

Make a prioritized list of everything you need to do, so you can't use "I don't know where to start" as an excuse. Just don't overschedule yourself. Without some flexibility, you'll set yourself up to fail.

STUDY AT THE SAME TIME EVERY DAY

Even if you don't have homework, use the time to review notes. If homework is something you

accept as part of your day, you'll approach it with less dread. Plus, you'll become a pro at using time productively.

KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

Know how much weight each assignment or test carries, and use your time accordingly.

GET MORE INVOLVED

Ever feel like you can't stay awake to read something, let alone process it? Keep your mind from wandering by taking notes, underlining sections, discussing topics with others, or relating your homework to something you're studying in another class.

ORGANIZE THE INFORMATION

People process information in different ways. Some people like to draw pictures or charts to digest information, other people like to read out loud or make detailed outlines. Try to find the best methods that work for you. Ask your teacher for recommendations if you're having trouble.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY FREE TIME

If you have a study hall, or a long bus ride, use the time to review notes, prepare for an upcoming class, or start your homework.

If you have concerns about the amount or type of homework you have, you may want to talk to your teacher, adviser, or counselor.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Gain the Edge in College Preparation

- Get a head start on college-level work.

- Improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem-solving techniques.

- Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work.

Stand Out in the College Admissions Process

- Demonstrate your maturity and readiness for college.
- Show your willingness to push yourself to the limit.
- Emphasize your commitment to academic excellence.

Broaden Your Intellectual Horizons

- Explore the world from a variety of perspectives, most importantly your own.
- Study subjects in greater depth and detail.
- Assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding for yourself.



Take Control of Homework