

2013 AP English Language and Composition Summer Institute Syllabus for Experienced Teachers

July 22-25, 2013

Institute Overview

The session in English Language and Composition will continue the knowledge and skill development for those teachers who have been teaching this course for several years. Many of the sessions will have applications to pre-AP lesson planning. Key areas to be covered include: preparing students for the AP examination and using the features of the exam to enhance curricula; discussing ways to approach the challenging subject of rhetorical analysis; identifying ways to use research in the course, focusing on the synthesis process; incorporating fiction into a course that, theoretically, focuses primarily on non-fiction (the rhetoric of fiction); discussing passages of pre-20th century prose; and discussing the process of maintaining a writing voice when writing formulaic-style essays. The session is discussion-based, and group activity will be encouraged. Experienced teachers have a tremendous amount of knowledge and many files full of excellent lesson plans, so participants will be invited to share their expertise throughout the four days.

Consultant Background

Michael Knoedler has worked as a consultant with the College Board since 2005, facilitating day-long workshops as a Midwest regional consultant. He has been a co-facilitator of the English Language session at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Advanced Placement Summer Institute for the past fourteen years. This is his third summer at the Olathe APSI. He has been a reader for the AP Language exam and has been part of the College Board mentor-mentee training program for consultants. Before retiring from teaching in 2007, he taught Honors English, AP Language and Composition, and AP Literature and Composition at Dodgeville High School in southwestern Wisconsin.

Institute Preparation

Participants should bring the following:

- a. your AP Language syllabus, as approved by the College Board audit; there will be a sharing session with each participant presenting his/her syllabus;
- b. a sample of fiction you teach within the AP Language course (if you teach fiction in the course); there will be a sharing session on teaching fiction;
- c. a sample writing assignment you present to your class; there will be a sharing session with each participant presenting one of his/her writing topics;
- d. a copy of a longer work of non-fiction you teach;
- e. and, most importantly, your willingness to share your thoughts and to discuss ideas with your peers throughout the week

Institute Schedule

Day 1, July 22

Morning

- Introductions; Issues and Concerns of Participants
- Equity and Access: the politics of Advanced Placement
- The process of building a syllabus: sharing session

Afternoon

- Sharing session: how to prepare students for the multiple-choice section of the exam
- Overview of rhetorical analysis
- Historical glimpse at the rhetorical analysis prompts used on the exam
- Group Work: rhetorical analysis/political speeches
- Kennedy Speech—2012 prompt and samples

Day 2, July 23

Morning

- Reflections on Day 1
- Overview of the synthesis process/using research
- Application of synthesis process
- Group work: US Postal Service prompt and samples

Afternoon:

- Building classroom synthesis projects
- Argument Question: Group work on argument questions
- Group work: “Certainty and Doubt” prompt and samples
- Encouraging “student voice” in formulaic essays

Day 3, July 24

Morning

- Reflections on Day 2
- How to teach current events in AP Language
- Rhetoric of War: as presented in letters, speeches, memoirs, and fiction

Afternoon

- Civil War era speeches and letters, including those of Lincoln;
- the rhetoric of national memorials: Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Day 4, July 25

Morning

- Reflections on Day 3
- Teaching fiction with an eye for rhetoric

Afternoon

- Sharing session of best practices

Graduate Credit Option

Participants may also earn three graduate education hours for any of the AP Summer Institutes from Washburn University for a reduced tuition rate the successful completion of an academic assignment.

Additional Information

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