

Information about the Course:

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses at Mt. Juliet High School participate in college-level courses designed to prepare students for the national AP exams. These exams allow students to earn college credit while still in high school. The College Board prepares course descriptions, expectations, and examinations. AP scores of 3, 4, or 5 are often accepted at universities throughout the United States and overseas.

Class Expectations:

As the AP program's goal is to prepare students for college, students and parents should be aware that not all students make A's in the courses. The rigorous coursework requires students to work as much as two years beyond their peers. Grades of a B and/or C are considered quite successful within the program.

AP English Language and Composition demands more than regular English. First, students are required to purchase and read selected texts during the summer and school year and may have to do additional work with these texts. Tests will be given on the reading at the beginning of the school year. Students who have not completed the reading must still take the tests. Additionally, students are expected to do much more independent reading, more and longer writing pieces, and will have a heavier homework/classwork load during the school year. Students should have already mastered most grammar, usage, and mechanics skills. The course is designed to challenge students who are generally excelling in their regular English classes.

Students enrolled in AP courses are *required* to take the national exam. The fee for the exam is \$86.00 and must be paid during the first week of classes.

Criteria for Acceptance into AP English Language and Composition:

Must meet one (1) of the following criteria: A PLAN composite of 19 or an ACT composite score of 22 or higher; PSAT or SAT verbal score at the 50th percentile or higher; 90 average in regular English 2 or 85 in Honors English 2; or recommendation from two (2) previous English teachers. A writing sample may be required.

Although Wilson County only requires students to meet one of the criteria, Mt. Juliet High School strongly recommends students meet both the required test score and the required grades in previous English classes.

Required AP Summer Reading:

The Things They Carried or *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
The Catcher in the Rye or *Into the Wild*

- Students will take a test over *The Things They Carried / Their Eyes Were Watching God* on the Monday of the second week of the semester and *The Catcher in the Rye / Into the Wild* on the Monday of the fourth week of the semester. Students should take notes (on paper or by highlighting in the book) while reading in order to have something to review before the test.
- Students also have the opportunity to write a paper on the book instead of taking a test. If you write the paper, you may submit it (typed) on the day of the test.

Guidelines for Optional Paper

Papers must be typed and approximately 500 words in length. Use one or more of the following starters to write an analytical essay on the book of your choice.

Responses may start:

- “*The author’s imagery reveals...*”
- “*The setting gives the effect of...*”
- “*The author seems to feel...*”
- “*The tone of this part / chapter / book is...*”
- “*The character(s) feel(s)...*”
- “*This scene / chapter / book is ironic because...*”
- “*An interesting metaphor or symbol is*”
- “*The detail seems effective/out of place/important because...*”
- “*An interesting word/phrase/sentence/thought is...*”
- “*This reminds me of...*”
- “*Something I notice/appreciate/don’t appreciate/wonder about is...*”
- *The author emphasizes _____ in order to...*”

Parent Contract:

I understand that AP English requires summer reading; challenging, outside reading; extensive writing; and good attendance. I understand that the \$86.00 test fee is due the first week of classes. I agree to abide by the policies as stated.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Contract:

I understand that AP English requires summer reading; challenging, outside reading; extensive writing; and good attendance. I understand that the \$86.00 test fee is due the first week of classes. I agree to abide by the policies as stated.

Student Signature

Date