

AP Language & Composition Contract

2026-27 School Year

You have enrolled in **AP Language & Composition**; here is a brief overview of what to expect, including your summer assignments. Please sign one copy of this sheet and return it to Mrs. Maleski in Room 218 no later than **June 5, 2026**. **If you do not return the contract, you will be withdrawn from this class.**

Summer Assignment

You must complete the following:

- 1) *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- 2) Podcast Assignment
- 3) Vocabulary Assignment

You may use a digital version like this [one](#), but I advise buying your own copy and making margin notes and highlighting as you read. If you borrow a book, you must sign it out and return it when you return to school. Borrowed books should not be written in; I suggest getting post-it notes to keep track of your notes in the reading. **It is your responsibility to complete all assignments. There is no exception to this requirement. Failure to do so is cause for dismissal from the course.**

Literature

During the year we will be reading literature with an emphasis on American literature through novels, poems, and short stories. We will study nonfiction pieces, historical documents, and speeches, and we will utilize several other media.

Weekly AP Vocabulary Quizzes

On the AP Lit exam, there will be many abstract terms and complex vocabulary thrown at you. The best way to prepare for this is to memorize these words and to learn them early. Please refer to the list in the vocabulary assignment. Every week or so, we will be having a vocabulary quiz on the words from your vocabulary list. Please define them on your own. I suggest using Quizlet as a study aid. They will also be used in discussion, lectures, and timed writings.

Composition

You will need a folder to use for organization of class materials and papers. You will need to keep electronic copies of typed assignments, as well as hard copies. You will be asked to turn in an electronic copy in addition to a hard copy in some cases. You will also use GoogleDocs and Google Classroom. Writing skills are integrated into the study of literature, culture, and history. There will be an emphasis on developing research skills and analytical writing, as well as a unit to help prepare you for the AP test at the end of the course.

Research Paper and Projects

You will complete at least 2 research projects during the year. You will do formal research writing and make multimedia presentations based upon your research. Projects will also be implemented for full novel units.

Grading

This is a college preparatory class. Because this is an AP course, you should maintain a C or better to continue with the class. All assignments are due on time. If you do not complete an assignment, it may be turned in the following day for partial credit. **Projects and papers should be submitted the day they are due, even if you are not present. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get assignments and notes from a reliable classmate and complete missed work within the amount of time you were out. Weekly agendas are posted and kept up to date.**

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Student Email

Parent Email

Summer Reading/Writing Assignment

AP Lang

Complete all of the following:

1. Read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. *Fahrenheit 451* explores several key thematic ideas including censorship, conformity vs. individuality, the power of knowledge, and the dangers of technology and mass media. Bradbury employs a variety of rhetorical devices to explore the dangers of censorship and the importance of knowledge and individual thought.

Choose at least three rhetorical devices (see the list below, or look for others) that Bradbury utilizes in the novel and analyze how they contribute to the overall message and tone of the work. During your reading, locate **five direct quotes** that connect the rhetorical devices to the overall themes and message of the novel:

- metaphor -ethos
- simile -logos
- allusions -pathos
- imagery irony
- symbolism

Provide specific examples from the text to support your claims using quotation marks and page number citations, and discuss how these rhetorical choices create a particular effect on the reader (tone, mood, author's purpose). Consider how these devices contribute to the novel's dystopian setting and its impact on the protagonist, Guy Montag. You should type this in one document to submit **on the second day of school for 36 points. See rubric [here](#).**

2. Choose one podcast and listen to at least three episodes of it. If you need help finding one, there is a list of suggested podcasts linked [here](#). You can access podcasts from Apple, Spotify, or other streaming music services. There are thousands to choose from, but choose one that is “family friendly” and that you can talk about in a classroom setting.

You will then be required to write a one-page reflection. Your reflection must:

- Give the title of the podcast and a brief summary of what your episodes are about.
- What specific choices do the podcast producers make to create an engaging podcast?
 - Podcasts can't be boring or they won't be successful. Producers hire good speakers, provide music, humor, sound effects, and other devices to engage their listeners.
- What rhetorical techniques or devices were used in the podcast? What are their effects on the listener?
 - Note: Everything is a rhetorical choice. If you're watching the podcast, what you see is a rhetorical choice made by the host. The words and sounds are rhetorical choices. Each choice has an effect. What is the effect?
- Did you enjoy your episodes? Why or why not? Explain.

See the rubric with scoring and full requirements [here](#). 30 points

3. Study the vocabulary terms listed in [this document](#). Create an index card for each term. On one side, write the word; on the other side write the definition as well as your own example for each. **These index cards are all due on the first day of class.** Late assignments will be penalized. Expect your first quiz on the terms very possibly the first day or at least the first week of class, so be sure to study them all summer! Quizzes will be also given weekly to keep the words fresh in your minds!

AP English Language and Composition Rhetorical Terms

Summer Assignment:

1. Create an **index card** for each term. Number them according to the numbers on this list. On one side, write the **word**; on the other side write the **definition** as well as a **helpful example** for each.
2. **These index cards are due on the first day of class.**
3. **Expect your first test on the terms** very possibly the first day or at least the first week of class, so be sure to study them all summer! Tests will be given on 10 terms at a time, in the order given below.

1. **Ad Hominem** - An argument based on the failings of an adversary rather than on the merits of the case; a logical fallacy that involves a personal attack.
2. **Allegory** - Extending a metaphor so that objects, persons, and actions in a text are equated with meanings that lie outside the text.
3. **Alliteration** - The repetition of an initial consonant sound.
4. **Allusion** - A brief, usually indirect reference to a person, place, or event--real or fictional.
5. **Ambiguity** - The presence of two or more possible meanings in any passage.
6. **Anacoluthon** - A grammatical interruption or lack of implied sequence within a sentence, beginning a sentence in a way that implies a certain logical resolution, but concluding it differently than the grammar leads one to expect; an interruption or a verbal lack of symmetry.
7. **Anadiplosis** - The repetition of the last word or phrase from a preceding clause.
8. **Analogy** - Reasoning or arguing from parallel cases.
9. **Anaphora** - The repetition of the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or verses.
10. **Antanagoge** - A negative point offset by a positive one, effectively balancing the conversation and reframing the narrative; addresses criticism by acknowledging a flaw or downside while simultaneously presenting a positive attribute or consequence.
11. **Antecedent** - The noun or noun phrase referred to by a pronoun.
12. **Antithesis** - The juxtaposition of contrasting ideas in balanced phrases.
13. **Aphorism** - (1) A tersely phrased statement of a truth or opinion. (2) A brief statement of a principle.
14. **Apophasis** - Intentionally bringing up a subject by either denying it or denying that it should be brought up
15. **Apostrophe** - A rhetorical term for breaking off discourse to address some absent person or thing.
16. **Appeal to Authority** - A fallacy in which a speaker or writer seeks to persuade not by giving evidence but by appealing to the respect people have for a famous person or institution.
17. **Argument** - A course of reasoning aimed at demonstrating truth or falsehood.
18. **Assonance** - The identity or similarity in sound between internal vowels in neighboring words.
19. **Asterismos** - the use of a prefix word to draw attention to subsequent words; a “pointing word,” like “Behold!”
20. **Asyndeton** - The omission of conjunctions between words, phrases, or clauses (opposite of **polysyndeton**).
21. **Chiasmus** - A verbal pattern in which the second half of an expression is balanced against the first but with the parts reversed.

22. **Claim** - An arguable statement, which may be a claim of fact, value, or policy.
23. **Climax** - Mounting by degrees through words or sentences of increasing weight and in parallel construction with an emphasis on the high point or culmination of a series of events.
24. **Colloquial** - Characteristic of writing that seeks the effect of informal spoken language as distinct from formal or literary English.
25. **Comparison** - A rhetorical strategy in which a writer examines similarities and/or differences between two people, places, ideas, or objects.
26. **Concession** - An argumentative strategy by which a speaker or writer acknowledges the validity of an opponent's point.
27. **Confirmation** - The main part of a text in which logical arguments in support of a position are elaborated.
28. **Conjunction** - The part of speech (or word class) that serves to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.
29. **Connotation** - The emotional implications and associations that a word may carry.
30. **Coordination** - The grammatical connection of two or more ideas to give them equal emphasis and importance. Contrast with subordination.
31. **Deduction** - A method of reasoning in which a conclusion follows necessarily from the stated premises.
32. **Denotation** - The direct or dictionary meaning of a word, in contrast to its figurative or associated meanings.
33. **Diction** - (1) The choice and use of words in speech or writing. (2) A way of speaking, usually assessed in terms of prevailing standards of pronunciation and elocution.
34. **Didactic** - Intended or inclined to teach or instruct, often excessively.
35. **Dysphemism** - the substitution of a harsh, disparaging, or unpleasant expression for a neutral or polite one.
36. **Epiphora** - The repetition of a word or phrase at the end of several clauses. (Also known as **epistrophe**.)
37. **Epitaph** - (1) A short inscription in prose or verse on a tombstone or monument. (2) A statement or speech commemorating someone who has died: a funeral oration.
38. **Ethos** - A persuasive appeal based on the projected character of the speaker or narrator.
39. **Euphemism** - The substitution of an inoffensive term for one considered offensively explicit.
40. **Eutrepismus** - numbering or ordering the parts of a speech or argument to enhance clarity and organization
41. **Exposition** - A statement or type of composition intended to give information about (or an explanation of) an issue, subject, method, or idea.
42. **Extended Metaphor** - A comparison between two unlike things that continues throughout a series of sentences in a paragraph or lines in a poem.
43. **Fallacy** - An error in reasoning that renders an argument invalid.
44. **False Dilemma** - A fallacy of oversimplification that offers a limited number of options(usually two) when in fact more options are available.
45. **Figurative Language** - Language in which figures of speech (such as metaphors, similes, and hyperbole) freely occur.

46. **Figures of Speech** - The various uses of language that depart from customary construction, order, or significance.
47. **Flashback** - A shift in a narrative to an earlier event that interrupts the normal chronological development of a story.
48. **Hasty Generalization** - A fallacy in which a conclusion is not logically justified by sufficient or unbiased evidence.
49. **Hyperbole** - A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; an extravagant statement.
50. **Hypophora** - Asking a question and immediately answering it; a rhetorical question that is answered by the speaker
51. **Imagery** - Vivid descriptive language that appeals to one or more of the senses.
52. **Induction** - A method of reasoning by which a rhetor collects a number of instances and forms a generalization that is meant to apply to all instances.
53. **Invective** - Denunciatory or abusive language; discourse that casts blame on somebody or something.
54. **Irony** - The use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning. A statement or situation where the meaning is directly contradicted by the appearance or presentation of the idea.
55. **Jargon** - The specialized language of a professional, occupational, or other group, often meaningless to outsiders.
56. **Juxtaposition** - Placing dissimilar items, descriptions, or ideas close together or side-by-side, especially for comparison or contrast.
57. **Litote** - A figure of speech consisting of an understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by negating its opposite.
58. **Logos** - Employs logical reasoning, combining a clear idea (or multiple ideas) with well-thought-out and appropriate examples and details. These supports are logically presented and rationally reach the writer's conclusion.
59. **Loose Sentence** - A sentence structure in which a main clause is followed by subordinate phrases and clauses (also known as a **cumulative sentence**). Contrast with **periodic sentence**.
60. **Metaphor** - A figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between two unlike things that actually have something important in common.
61. **Metonymy** - A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated (such as "crown" for "royalty").
62. **Mode of Discourse** - The way in which information is presented in a text. The four traditional modes are narration, description, exposition, and argument.
63. **Mood** - (1) The quality of a verb that conveys the writer's attitude toward a subject. (2) The emotion evoked by a text.
64. **Narrative** - A rhetorical strategy that recounts a sequence of events, usually in chronological order.
65. **Onomatopoeia** - The formation or use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to.
66. **Oxymoron** - A figure of speech in which incongruous or contradictory terms appear side-by-side.
67. **Paradox** - A statement that appears to contradict itself.

68. **Parallelism** - The similarity of structure in a pair or series of related words, phrases, or clauses.
69. **Parody** - A literary or artistic work that imitates the characteristic style of an author or a work for comic effect or ridicule.
70. **Pathos** - The means of persuasion that appeals to the audience's emotions.
71. **Periodic Sentence** - A long and frequently involved sentence, marked by suspended syntax, in which the sense is not completed until the final word--usually with an emphatic climax.
72. **Personification** - A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.
73. **Point of View** - The perspective from which a speaker or writer tells a story or presents information.
74. **Polysyndeton** - Employing many conjunctions between clauses, often slowing the tempo or rhythm.
75. **Procatlepsis** - Refuting anticipated objections; a prebuttal
76. **Prose** - Ordinary writing (both fiction and nonfiction) as distinguished from verse.
77. **Pun** - a word employed in two senses, or a word used in a context that suggests a second term sounding like it. Puns are usually used for comic effect.
78. **Refutation** - The part of an argument wherein a speaker or writer anticipates and counters opposing points of view.
79. **Repetition** - An instance of using a word, phrase, or clause more than once in a short passage--dwelling on a point.
80. **Rhetoric** - The study and practice of effective communication.
81. **Rhetorical Question** - A question asked merely for effect with no answer expected.
82. **Running Style** - Sentence style that appears to follow the mind as it worries a problem through, mimicking the "rambling, associative syntax of conversation"--the opposite of periodic sentence style.
83. **Sarcasm** - A mocking, often ironic or satirical remark.
84. **Satire** - A text or performance that uses irony, derision, or wit to expose or attack human vice, foolishness, or stupidity.
85. **Simile** - A figure of speech in which two fundamentally unlike things are explicitly compared, usually in a phrase introduced by "like" or "as."
86. **Style** - Narrowly interpreted as those figures that ornament speech or writing; broadly, as representing a manifestation of the person speaking or writing.
87. **Syllogism** - A form of deductive reasoning consisting of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion.
88. **Subordination** - Words, phrases, and clauses that make one element of a sentence dependent on (or subordinate to) another. Contrast with coordination.
89. **Symbol** - A person, place, action, or thing that (by association, resemblance, or convention) represents something other than itself.
90. **Synecdoche** - A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole, the whole for a part, the specific for the general, the general for the specific, or the material for the thing made from it.
91. **Syntax** - (1) The study of the rules that govern the way words combine to form phrases, clauses, and sentences. (2)

The arrangement of words in a sentence.

92. **Tautology** - a saying in which two different words or statements are used to convey the exact same idea; a needlessly redundant sentence/phrase.
93. **Thesis** - The main idea of an essay or report, often written as a single declarative sentence.
94. **Tmesis** – the colorful practice of inserting one word into another word or phrase.
95. **Tone** - A writer's attitude toward the subject and audience. Tone is primarily conveyed through diction, point of view, syntax, and level of formality.
96. **Understatement** - A figure of speech in which a writer deliberately makes a situation seem less important or serious than it is.
97. **Voice** - (1) The quality of a verb that indicates whether its subject acts (active voice) or is acted upon (passive voice). (2) The distinctive style or manner of expression of an author or narrator.
98. **Zeugma** - The use of a word to modify or govern two or more words although its use may be grammatically or logically correct with only one.

Rhetorical Quote Assignment

AP Lang & Comp

Summer 2026

Read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. *Fahrenheit 451* explores several key thematic ideas including censorship, conformity vs. individuality, the power of knowledge, and the dangers of technology and mass media.

Bradbury employs a variety of rhetorical devices to explore the dangers of censorship and the importance of knowledge and individual thought. Choose **at least three rhetorical devices (see the list below, or look for others)** that Bradbury utilizes in the novel, and analyze how they contribute to the overall message and tone of the work. During your reading, locate **five direct quotes that connect the rhetorical devices** to the overall themes and message of the novel:

- metaphor
- simile
- allusions
- imagery
- irony
- symbolism
- ethos
- logos
- pathos

Provide specific examples from the text to support your claims using quotation marks and page number citations, and discuss how these rhetorical choices create a particular effect on the reader (tone, mood, author's purpose). Consider how these devices contribute to the novel's dystopian setting and its impact on the protagonist, Guy Montag. You should type this in one document to submit on the second day of school for **36 points**.

Rubric

Rhetorical devices: At least 3 _____/6

Evidence: At least 5 direct quotes _____/15

Include page numbers, quotation marks

Analysis:

- how each contributes to the overall message and themes of the work _____/15
- how each of the rhetorical choices creates a particular effect on the reader (tone, mood, author's purpose)
- how each quote connects the rhetorical device to the overall theme/message of the novel
- how these devices contribute to the novel's dystopian setting and its impact on the protagonist

Total: _____/36

AP Lang Summer Assignment

Podcast Analysis Rubric (Total: 30 Points)

Choose one podcast and listen to at least three episodes of it. If you need help finding one, there is a list of suggested podcasts linked [here](#). You can access podcasts from Apple, Spotify, YouTube, or other streaming music services. There are thousands to choose from, but choose one that is “family friendly” and that you can talk about in a classroom setting.

As you listen, think about the choices made through the episodes. Podcasts can't be boring or they won't be successful. Producers hire good speakers, provide music, humor, sound effects, and other devices to engage their listeners.

You will then be required to write a one-page analysis. Your response must answer the following:

- Give the **title** of the podcast and a **summary** of what your episodes are about.
- **Analyze** the podcast. What specific choices do the podcast producers make to create an engaging podcast?
 - **How would you describe the podcast's overall format and structure?** (e.g., interview-based, narrative-driven, discussion-oriented, etc.)
 - **What are the different segments or sections of the podcast, and how do they contribute to the overall narrative?**
 - **What is the podcast's target audience, and how does the content and style cater to them?**
 - **What are the main themes or topics explored in the podcast?**
 - **How does the podcast use audio effectively (e.g., music, sound effects, narration)?**
 - **Are the main ideas defined and clearly understood?**

Rubric

1. Podcast Title & Episode Summary (5 points)

5 points: Provides a clear title and accurate summary of the episode's content.

3 points: Title and summary are present but lack clarity or detail.

1 point: Either title or summary is missing or unclear.

2. Podcast Format & Structure (5 points)

5 points: Clearly identifies the podcast's format and describes its structure, including segments and transitions.

3 points: Identifies format and structure but lacks detail or clarity.

1 point: Format or structure is not identified or is unclear.

3. Engagement Strategies (5 points)

5 points: Analyzes specific production choices (e.g., pacing, tone, guest selection) that enhance audience engagement.

3 points: Mentions some engagement strategies but lacks detailed analysis.

1 point: Engagement strategies are not discussed or are unclear.

4. Target Audience & Content Style (5 points)

5 points: Identifies the target audience and explains how the content and style cater to them.

3 points: Mentions target audience and content style but lacks detailed explanation.

1 point: Target audience or content style is not identified or is unclear.

5. Use of Audio Elements (5 points)

5 points: Effectively analyzes how audio elements (e.g., music, sound effects, narration) enhance the podcast.

3 points: Mentions audio elements but lacks detailed analysis.

1 point: Audio elements are not discussed or are unclear.

6. Adherence to MLA Format & Submission Guidelines (5 points)

5 points: Paper is formatted according to MLA guidelines and submitted via Google Docs as specified.

3 points: Paper is mostly formatted correctly but has minor MLA errors.

1 point: Paper has significant MLA formatting errors or is not submitted as specified.

Total: ____ / 30 Points