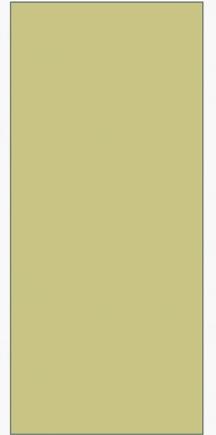




# AP ENGLISH OVERVIEW

AP OPEN HOUSE BREAKOUT SESSION  
NOVEMBER 21, 2013



# COURSE SEQUENCING

- English and Communication II Honors
  - Open to **sophomores** only
- AP English Language & Composition
  - Open to **juniors** only
- AP English Literature & Composition
  - Open to **seniors** only

# COMMON ELEMENTS OF BOTH AP ENGLISH COURSES

- Both AP Language and AP Literature require students to:
  - Read, write, and think critically
  - Listen actively
  - Participate frequently, voluntarily, and meaningfully in class discussions
  - Demonstrate a high degree of independence in and reflection on their learning
  - Read complex texts and stay current with their reading assignments
  - Text mark assigned readings in order to prepare for class discussions and written assessments
  - Formulate thoughtful questions to pose within class discussions
  - Demonstrate self-advocacy and academic honesty

# COMMON ELEMENTS OF BOTH AP ENGLISH COURSES

- Both AP Language and AP Literature require students to:
  - Engage in intensive writing
    - In-class (timed) impromptu essays
    - Multiple draft essays
  - Consult and cite multiple sources
  - Be willing to share their ideas and writing with their peers and be a critical reviewer of their peers' writing
  - Consider taking the AP Exam for that course
    - Exam is optional and does not factor into students' grades
    - Curriculum aligns closely with exam content
    - Student exposure to exam format and practice with content/skills throughout the year

# COURSE OVERVIEWS

## **AP Language & Composition**

- Rhetorical analysis
- Added non-fiction focus
- Writing: rhetorical analysis, synthesis, argumentative, research (advocacy), narrative
- Vocabulary of rhetoric

## **AP Literature & Composition**

- Literary analysis
- Added poetry focus
- Writing: literary analysis, binder entries, definitions of abstract concepts
- Genre study

# COURSE OVERVIEWS

## AP Language & Composition

- Increasingly complex readings
- Core texts:
  - *The Things They Carried*
  - *Hamlet*
  - *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
  - *The Language of Composition* (textbook)

## AP Literature & Composition

- Highly complex readings
- Core texts:
  - *The Brothers Karamazov*
  - *The Sound and the Fury*
  - *Invisible Man*
  - *Housekeeping*
  - *King Lear*
  - Poetry selections

# STUDENT VIEWS

- What is the difference in the types of writing you do in AP Language and AP Literature?

# AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

- Fiction and non-fiction are accessed through a rhetorical lens
- Students analyze the way in which a text is written
  - Diction (word choice)
  - Syntax (sentence structure)
  - Arrangement
  - Rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos)
  - Types of evidence
- Students examine how the way in which a text is written functions to convey meaning, fulfill purpose, and/or create effect
- Students identify arguments in a variety of oral, written, and visual texts and evaluate the strength of these arguments
- Students use rhetorical knowledge to make their own communications more purposeful, engaging, and persuasive

# BENEFITS OF TAKING AP ENGLISH COURSES

Enhanced critical  
thinking/reading skills

Increased clarity,  
coherence, creativity,  
complexity, and  
confidence in writing

Correlation between  
taking AP  
courses/exams and  
college success

Ability to  
identify/analyze  
purpose, message, and  
argument relevant to all  
disciplines

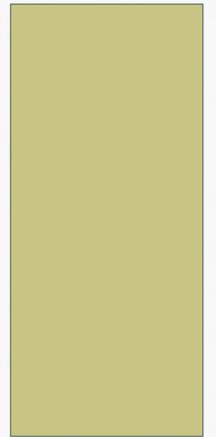
Unlimited “real world”  
applications

# QUESTIONS?

- For the student panel?
- For the teachers?
- For more information you may contact:
  - Joe Geocarlis ([jgeocarlis@csd99.org](mailto:jgeocarlis@csd99.org))
    - AP Language
  - Courtney Linnemeyer ([clinnemeyer@csd99.org](mailto:clinnemeyer@csd99.org))
    - AP Language
  - Glenn Spitler ([gspitler@csd99.org](mailto:gspitler@csd99.org))
    - AP Literature

# AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

EXAM OVERVIEW



# SECTION ONE: MULTIPLE CHOICE

- Approximately 55 Multiple Choice Questions.
- 60 minutes
- Students read short excerpts of various non-fiction texts (essays, letters, speeches, editorials, etc.) and answer questions
- Counts for 45% of overall score

# SECTION ONE

- Multiple choice questions cover:
  - Reading comprehension
  - Advanced vocabulary in context
  - Understanding of language & its use
  - The impact of an author's decisions (rhetorical choices)
  - Identification of rhetorical devices (terms/techniques)

# SAMPLE SECTION ONE QUESTIONS

- Which of the following best describes the rhetorical function of the second sentence in the passage?
  - A. It makes an appeal to authority.
  - B. It restates the thesis of the passage.
  - C. It expresses the causal relationship between morality and writing style.
  - D. It proves a specific example for the preceding generalization.
  - E. It presents a misconception that the author will later correct.

# SAMPLE SECTION ONE QUESTION

- The author's observation in the sentence beginning "It is clear" (lines 49-51) is best described as an example of which of the following?
  - A. Mocking tone
  - B. Linguistic paradox
  - C. Popularity of the familiar style
  - D. The author's defense of Johnson's style
  - E. The author's advice to the reader

# SAMPLE SECTION ONE QUESTION

- The speaker's attitude toward the jazz musicians is best described as one of
  - A. Idolatrous devotion
  - B. Profound admiration
  - C. Feigned intimacy
  - D. Qualified enthusiasm
  - E. Reasoned objectivity

# SAMPLE SECTION ONE QUESTION

- In the sentence beginning “There were times” (lines 58-63), the speaker employs all of the following EXCEPT:
  - A. concrete diction
  - B. parallel syntax
  - C. simile
  - D. understatement
  - E. onomatopoeia

# SECTION TWO: FREE RESPONSE

- 3 Essays
- 15-minute reading period (for prompts and accompanying sources)
- 120-minute writing period (approximately 40 minutes per essay)
- Counts for 55% of overall score

# SECTION TWO: SYNTHESIS ESSAY

## **Synthesis Essay Question**

- Students read a series of texts (sources) related to a controversial issue. Then, they write an essay that makes a claim and uses the sources as support for their claim.
- Similar to a traditional research paper, but done on a smaller scale, in a timed setting.

# SAMPLE SYNTHESIS ESSAY PROMPT

## **Synthesis Essay Prompt from 2009:**

- Introduction: Explorers and tales of explorations tend to capture the human imagination. However, such explorations have financial and ethical consequences. Space exploration is no exception.
- Assignment: Read the following sources (including the introductory information) carefully. Then, in an essay that synthesizes at least three of the sources, develop a position about what issues should be considered most important in making decisions about space exploration.

# SECTION TWO: RHETORICAL ANALYSIS ESSAY

## **Rhetorical Analysis Essay Question**

- What is the author's purpose, and what rhetorical strategies (techniques of language) does he/she use to achieve that purpose?

# SAMPLE RHETORICAL ANALYSIS ESSAY PROMPT

## **Rhetorical Analysis Essay prompt from 2012:**

- “On April 10, 1962, as the United States was emerging from a recession, the nation’s largest steel companies raised steel prices by 3.5 percent. President John F. Kennedy, who had repeatedly called for stable prices and wages as part of a program of national sacrifice during a period of economic distress, held a news conference on April 11, 1962, which he opened with the following commentary regarding the hike in steel prices. Read Kennedy’s remarks carefully. Then write an essay in which you analyze the rhetorical strategies President Kennedy uses to achieve his purpose. Support your analysis with specific references to the text.”

# SECTION TWO: ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

## **Argumentative Essay Question**

- Asks the student to take a position on a controversial issue and support their position with examples from their own knowledge, reading, and experiences.

# SAMPLE ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY PROMPT

## **Argumentative Essay Prompt from 2009:**

- “Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant.”  
—Horace
- Consider this quotation about adversity from the Roman poet Horace. Then write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies Horace’s assertion about the role that adversity (financial or political hardship, danger, misfortune, etc.) plays in developing a person’s character. Support your argument with appropriate evidence from your reading, observation, or experience.

# AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION EXAM SCORING

Scoring on a scale of 0-5

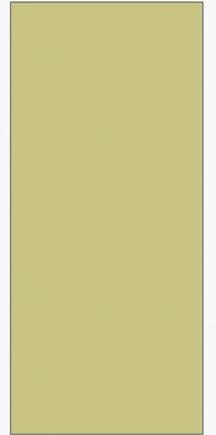
- Some colleges give credit for a 3
- More elite schools require a 4 or 5

DGS students:

- We had 100 students take the AP English Language & Composition test during the 2011-2012 school year (and even more during 2012-2013); this is the highest in the district in any subject
- We also had one of the highest percentages of 3,4, and 5 scores – 95%!
- Almost 70% of students scored a 4 or 5

# AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

EXAM OVERVIEW



# AP LITERATURE EXAM STRUCTURE

- Similar to the AP Language Exam
  - Section One: Multiple Choice
  - Section Two: Free Response (3 Essays)
- All texts used within the Multiple Choice and Free Response sections are fictional prose or poetry
- Free Response questions require students to analyze literature/poetry provided *and* to write about literature/poetry of merit that they previously read

# SAMPLE SECTION ONE QUESTION

- Vivian's first words ("Enjoy nature! I am glad to say that I have entirely lost that faculty") are surprising because Vivian
  - A. prevents Cyril from finishing his thoughts
  - B. claims to enjoy having lost the capacity to enjoy
  - C. thinks he has lost something that he obviously still possesses
  - D. implies that enjoying nature and smoking are not incongruous
  - E. is not responding to Cyril's remark

# SAMPLE SECTION ONE QUESTION

- The imagery of the poem is characterized by
  - A. religious and historical allusions
  - B. auditory and tactile qualities
  - C. transformation and duality
  - D. repetition and contrast
  - E. passivity and objectivity

# SAMPLE SECTION ONE QUESTION

- All of the following contrasts are integral to the poem EXCEPT
  - A. happiness and sorrow
  - B. past and present
  - C. light and dark
  - D. illusion and reality
  - E. fusion and separation

# SAMPLE SECTION ONE QUESTION

- Which of the following best describes Joe Dagget's speech within the piece?
  - A. Colloquial and unfocused
  - B. Amorous and impassioned
  - C. Pedantic and pompous
  - D. Subtle and refined
  - E. Informal and straightforward

# SAMPLE FREE RESPONSE Q1 PROMPT

- Read the poem “Blackberry-Picking” by contemporary Irish poet Seamus Heaney, paying particular attention to the physical intensity of the language. Then, in a well-organized essay, explain how the poet conveys not just a literal description of picking blackberries but a deeper understanding of the whole experience. If you wish, include an analysis of any of the following elements: diction, imagery, metaphor, rhythm, rhyme, and form.

# SAMPLE FREE RESPONSE Q2 PROMPT

- Read the following passage from Cormac McCarthy's 1994 novel, *The Crossing*. In a well-organized essay, explain how Cormac McCarthy's techniques convey the impact of the experience on the main character.

# SAMPLE FREE RESPONSE Q3 PROMPT

- The eighteenth-century British novelist Laurence Sterne wrote, “No body, but he who has felt it, can conceive what a plaguing thing it is to have a man’s mind torn asunder by two projects of equal strength, both obstinately pulling in a contrary direction at the same time.”
- From a novel or play choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict in one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.

# SAMPLE FREE RESPONSE

## Q3 PROMPT (CONT'D)

- You may use one of the novels or plays listed below or another novel or play of similar literary quality.
  - *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
  - *Anna Karenina*
  - *Antigone*
  - *The Awakening*
  - *Beloved*
  - *Billy Budd*
  - *Ceremony*
  - *Crime and Punishment*
  - *Dr. Faustus*
  - *An Enemy of the People*
  - Etc.