

AP English Language and Composition
Summer Work for 2025-2026 School Year

Teacher: Ms. Melissa Scapini
Email: scapime@lc-ps.org

About the course: The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. Students will become competent readers of non-fiction prose in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. They will also engage in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes and audiences. Because AP Language and Composition is a college-level course, the work is much more challenging and rigorous than the expected high school curriculum. In the spring, students have the option to take the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Exam and might receive college credit if the exam is passed.

There is a brief, optional meeting on **Wednesday, June 4th, immediately after school in room 218**. I will be able to meet you, answer questions, and distribute reading material.

I look forward to meeting you and learning with you in the upcoming school year!

Best,

Ms. Scapini

Texts needed: *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
Night by Elie Wiesel

Assignment: Read all of *Night* and parts 1-2 (about 150 pgs.) of *In Cold Blood*, and keep a journal for both. We use these texts throughout the year, so completing the reading and journal over the summer, when you have the luxury of time, helps immensely with managing your assignments.

Requirements: Journals must be handwritten— in your own handwriting. Use paper that can be torn out of a notebook and turned in or loose leaf paper. When we do in-class essays, you will be able to use these journals as a tool to find evidence quickly.

What to do: As you read, think **WHAT** is the message the author is trying to convey to his or her reader? **WHY** did they feel the need to share this message (what is their purpose in writing the book)? **HOW** are they conveying their message? Your journals should focus on diction, tone, sentence structure, audience, context, speaker, purpose, appeals, figurative language, or other elements that stand out to you. Use variety in your responses (meaning that all reflections shouldn't be about tone).

Each entry should be approximately 5 sentences—not including quotes. You should have one entry about every 10-12 pages, so that your entries aren't all from the same place in the book. You can format it in whatever way makes sense to you, but please separate each entry. I will be assessing the journal using the rubric below.

Rubric for Reading Journal

	3	2	1	Score
Quality of Responses	All responses demonstrate sufficient insight into the novel and adequately explain the connection between the quote and its significance to the story.	Some entries demonstrate a lack of insight into the novel and do not adequately explain the connection between the quote and its significance to the story.	Entries paraphrase quotes from the novel. No evidence of insights beyond summary.	
Selection and Range of Quotes	Quotations are selected from the entire work.	Quotations are selected from limited sections.	Quotations are selected from limited sections and reflect a limited understanding of the novel.	