

## TMSA - AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading and Writing Assignment 2023-2024

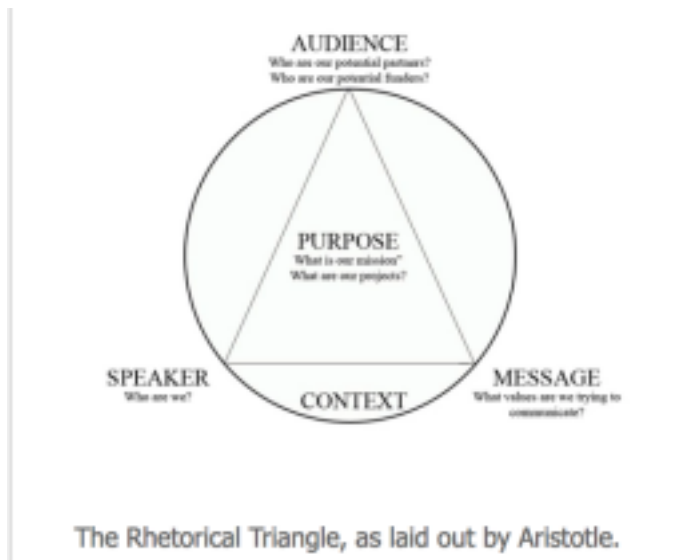
**Course:** Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

**Teacher:** Pankhuri Sharma ([psharma@tmsacademy.org](mailto:psharma@tmsacademy.org))

Welcome! I am so excited that you have decided to take Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. I am hoping you will share my excitement for this awesome, fast-paced course, which emphasizes nonfiction, argument and analysis of real-world issues.

**Preparing for the AP Course:** Understanding how language works is central to this course. Rhetorical elements are those aspects of language that have a function in a piece of writing or in a speech. The Greek philosopher Aristotle defined rhetoric as “the faculty of observing in any given case the available means of persuasion.” The modern rhetorical triangle (expanded from Aristotle’s) identifies five key components to any purposefully written or spoken composition:

- 1) the writer/speaker/persona
- 2) the subject/message
- 3) the audience
- 4) the purpose and
- 5) the (rhetorical) context/situation.



Consider the following questions:

- :: What is the purpose?
- :: What is the subject and message?
- :: What is the context?
- :: Who is the intended audience?
- :: Who is speaking and what do you know about him/her/them/it?
- :: How does the piece function persuasively (consider logos, ethos, and pathos)?
- :: How effective is the piece and why?

Image credit:

<https://rhetoricaljournalist.wordpress.com/2011/05/09/podcast-1-the-rhetorical-triangle-and-burkes-pentad/>

**Reading:** My plan for you this summer is to **have fun** in all you do, and so I want you to have fun thinking about the elements of argument. Who doesn't like a good argument! If you were to read **ONE book** this summer for me, I strongly recommend the following title - *Understanding Rhetoric: A Graphic Guide to Writing - Third Edition*. It will serve as an introduction to the rhetorical elements and there's no argument how fun it will be. As you read, annotate using post-its or a journal. And don't worry if any of this is confusing – we will work on rhetorical analysis throughout the school year, and soon you will understand it well.

**Listening:** Summer is also a marvelous time to give yourself a boost by taking a deep dive into subjects that are new and interesting to you. I am sharing the [PODCAST link HERE](#) and part of your assignment is to listen to some of them over the summer. Choose one of the informational podcasts from this list of and listen to at least 5-10 episodes over the course of the summer. This will become part of your writing assignment questions and outline below. **(You MAY listen to more than one podcast this summer, but your written responses should all be for the same one.)**

**Writing:** When we come back to school, I will set up a Schoology assignment for it, and you will upload your google docx response for at least **4 episodes from the chosen podcast**. This assignment will be due before the end of the second week of school.

Each podcast response will be at least 250 words (about half of a page of writing) and should include personal response, analysis, and questions that emerged from the episode. **Do not merely summarize.** Use the following questions as a guide:

- What do I know/understand now that I didn't before?
- How did this episode change the way I think about something?
- What is a thought, idea, or perspective that I might not have considered if I hadn't encountered this episode?

REQUIRED: Please include an MLA-style citation of the podcast episode discussed on each response. [Click here for guidelines](#).

***Don't forget to have a wonderful summer!***

If you need to get in touch with me over the summer, feel free to email me at [psharma@tmsacademy.org](mailto:psharma@tmsacademy.org), and I'll be happy to answer any questions. Have a great summer!

Cheering you on,  
Mrs. Sharma

*\*References: Ms. O'Dell, Ms. Alicja Surzyn*