

AP Language and Composition in a Nutshell

I have to be completely honest. My first day of 11th grade, I walked into my very first Advanced Placement class, AP Language and Composition, with a mixture of emotions churning inside my brain. I felt nervous, excited, relieved, and determined to prove myself as I sat down, my friends, as equally emotionally conflicted, surrounding me. My journey through AP Lang has been stressful, inspirational, and extremely useful. I have practiced in the art of timed writings, new strategies, and figurative language. I have grown into my own writing style entirely, and learned skills that will help me throughout the rest of my life.

Initially, class was nerve-wracking. I felt the need to prove myself to Mr. Davis, to my fellow classmates, to myself, that I truly belonged in the classroom. Our first essay, essentially an analyzation of our summer reading novel, was one of the lowest scores I've ever received on an essay. My analysis of the novel *The Song of Solomon* was too nonspecific, and my entire essay lacked organization. Not only this, but I was completely caught off guard with the introduced of timed writings. Initially, I found it difficult to process my thoughts on such short notice. That being said, with Mr. Davis' strategies, timed writings eventually became easier and easier. Eventually, I became more comfortable with using figurative language and my analysis had some textual evidence from whatever passage we were currently writing about. Later on, especially in my "Me Talk Pretty One Day" outline, I became comfortable with portraying my voice in my writing. While my timed writings were still slightly unorganized, my scores eventually improved. The quality of my analysis was also on the rise, and I was citing more and more evidence with every essay. Towards the end of the year, I found it easier to engage the audience, and I was extremely comfortable with using humor to do so. I was more

comfortable with who I was as a writer, and overall, and I was faster at writing altogether. Still, my essays were still slightly unorganized, but the quality of them had greatly improved.

In my very first AP class, I was able to accept my faults as a writer, and improve them. I was humbled by those who surrounded me, and I realized that there is no 'best writer' there are only 'different writers'. I learned to communicate with those around me in an entirely different way, to give advice and to receive it. Mr. Davis didn't just teach us ways to incorporate more rhetorical appeals in our essays, he inspired us to be better people. Although at times it was extremely stressful, I don't regret taking AP Language and Composition in the slightest. It was an educational experience unlike any other, and it will forever change the way I write.