

English Language Arts Department FAQ

at Skyline High School

What are the options for freshmen in ELA at Skyline High School?

Required: English 9 or Honors English 9

Electives: Mystery and Suspense (semester-long only)*, Mythology (semester-long only) *

* These are electives in the English Department - proposed *NEW* for next year. They may be taken at any grade level at Skyline, but are not substitutes for the sequence of courses in English that are required for graduation.

What is the sequence of courses?

English 9	or	Honors English 9		
English 10	or	Honors English 10		
English 11	or	AP Language and Composition	or	AP Seminar
English 12	or	AP Literature and Composition	or	AP Research

What are some tips and tricks for success in your department's ninth grade courses?

- 1) Practice routine reading for pleasure
- 2) Practice routine writing (journal or creative writing)
- 3) Advocate and work with teachers - tell them what you like!

What are some highlights and AP level courses in the English Department?

- AP Language and Composition (**AP Lang**) is a fantastic opportunity to learn skills by reading nonfiction texts and speeches, researching and synthesizing sources, while also practicing both research writing and argumentative writing.
- AP Literature and Composition (**AP Lit**) is an amazing experience; students read high-interest fiction and other forms of literature, get to practice their own creative writing, and master the art of critical thinking about the best books, plays, and prose ever written!
- **AP Seminar** is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts, and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

- **AP Research**, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.
- All AP classes offer the chance to gain **college credit** if scoring a 3 or higher on the spring exam.