

AP Lang REHUGO Database

Be a student of the world.

One of the major goals of the AP Language and Composition Course is for the instruction to help facilitate informed citizenship. According to the College Board, this course "serves the larger goal of cultivating the critical literacy skills students need for lifelong learning. Beyond their academic lives, students should be able to use the literacy skills practiced in the course for personal satisfaction and responsible engagement in civic life" (AP Language and Composition Course Description, 2014).

Being an informed citizen is key - not only for success with the argument-based prompts on the AP Lang exam, but also in enhancing a person's ability to think critically and make more informed arguments in general. Knowing more about the world around us enables us to support more informed and logical arguments and ultimately promotes more civil discourse. This evidence-gathering project is intended to foster a cultural awareness of the world and spark a quest for more knowledge that will benefit you as you transition into adulthood, college, and beyond.

With your summer assignment, you will be getting a head start on a project that will take us through the first three quarters of the school year. You will be working to build a database of information that has the potential to help you on two of the three essays on the AP Lang exam. You'll be collecting information from each category in the acronym REHUGO:

Reading: news/magazine articles, essays, novels, memoirs, stories, poems

Entertainment: movies, TV shows, plays, songs, video games, fashion, celebrities, pop culture

History: events, movements/causes, wars, regimes, rulers, documents, speeches - US & world, distant & recent

Universal truths: famous quotes, sayings, proverbs, adages, mottos

Government: current events, politics, economics, laws, bills, protests, elections - US & world

Observations: personal experiences, experiences of friends/family, things you've noticed about life/humanity/behavior

Here is what you will be asked to read/watch/listen to from each category across the full project:

Reading

- [The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne](#)
 - You will read and keep a dialectical journal on this text this summer.
 - Mrs. Sperry has many copies available to borrow, or you may acquire your own copy.
- 5 short stories
 - Choose from any of the following sources:
 - [ESL Bits](#) (these have accompanying audio as well)
 - [CommonLit](#) (follow the instructions posted on Google Classroom to browse the library; must select stories with an assigned grade level of at least 8th grade)
 - [Lightspeed Magazine](#) (sci-fi/fantasy/dystopian stories)
- 6 op-ed or opinion news articles AKA The Columnist Project **(wait to do this one)**
 - Articles should come from a reputable source - examples include the New York Times, the Washington Post, NPR, BBC, The Atlantic (but many others would qualify)
 - We will do this project together and you will be shown how you can access newspapers through the public library.
 - Some of these websites may be behind paywalls. If you encounter this problem, you can try copying and pasting the URL of your desired article into removepaywall.com.
 - For this category, you **MUST** ensure that you are selecting articles from the "Opinions" section of the website. These may also be labeled as "Op-ed" or "Editorial." You are looking for articles or essays that involve an author explaining and defending their stance on a topic. These are not merely factual news stories (that's a separate category in this assignment.)
 - This is an example of an opinion article: "[Congress wants to regulate AI. Here's where to start.](#)"
 - And here is a non-opinion article on the same subject: "[Sam Altman: CEO of OpenAI calls for US to regulate artificial intelligence](#)"

- 1 nonfiction book (**wait to do this one**)
 - This will be assigned during the fall semester with specific requirements. This is NOT an option for the summer assignment.

Entertainment

- 3 critically-acclaimed or award-winning films
 - 1 film must be 50+ years old
 - 1 film must be a documentary
 - 1 film should be a non-documentary movie from within the last 50 years
 - Select movies you have never seen before (and for movies based on books, try to choose those for which you also haven't read the source material)
 - See Mrs. Sperry for guidance if you are not sure if the title you are interested in qualifies.
 - Available wherever you typically access movies (Netflix/Disney+/Amazon Prime Video/etc.) or through [Kanopy](#) on the [BPL website](#). If you're having trouble with this, talk to Mrs. Sperry
- 2 protest songs
 - You'll need to both listen to the song and look up its lyrics for this category.
 - Select from this list of "[The 50 greatest protest songs](#)"; or if you have an idea for a song that's not on this list, see Mrs. Sperry for approval
- 1 full season of a critically-acclaimed or award-winning TV series
 - This must be a show or season you haven't watched before - for instance, if you have already seen the first season of a particular show, but not the subsequent seasons, you may watch season 2 or later.
 - You do not necessarily have to choose the first season of a show you've never watched, assuming it's not a situation where you'll have difficulty following the story line - use your best judgment here.
 - For inspiration, you may wish to consult this list from Rolling Stone of "[The 100 Greatest TV Shows of All Time](#)"; however, you are not limited to this list.
 - See Mrs. Sperry for guidance if you are not sure if the title you are interested in qualifies.
- **4 News Events (this should be done in the second half of the year)**
 - **Step 1:** Select 4 events that have been in the news in 2024.
 - **Step 2:** Research each event and include research notes. You should have 2 sources per event and should include an MLA citation of your source. Sources

can include articles, social media posts, etc. If referencing a social media post, please try to credit the creator when appropriate.

- **Step 3:** Write a 3-4+ sentence summary of each event and provide 4+ sentences of commentary explaining **why this event is significant.** Highlight the significance/commentary in orange. **Write about the event as if the reader does not know about the event and think about the questions or issues this situation raises.** Make sure to address/answer these questions in your commentary. Include one example of an appositive phrase and one example of a dash, colon, or semicolon in each paragraph. Highlight the advanced punctuation in yellow; Include 2 higher level vocab words in each paragraph. Highlight them in green. Aim for a sophisticated style by varying your syntax. Including short, punchy sentences can add “voice.” Anticipating the counterargument can add nuance.
- Articles should come from a reputable source - examples include the New York Times, the Washington Post, NPR, BBC, USA Today (but many others would qualify; see Mrs. Sperry if you are unsure whether or not your source qualifies as being reputable)
- All Sides is the best source for this. Alternatively, you can [sign up for a free digital library card](#) from the Boston Public Library, which will then give you access to a number of news sites.
- See Mrs. Sperry for guidance if you are not sure whether the article you are looking at qualifies.

History

- 8 major movements, events, or figures
 - When selecting topics for this category, aim for those which are specific (e.g. “World War II” is far too broad - “French resistance during Hitler’s invasion” is better) and which have something to say/can tell us something about humanity.
 - 4 must be about movements/events/figures from the past 10 years; the other 4 must be from the more distant past
 - 4 must be from the United states, and the other 4 from any other country
 - You must obtain your information from at least 3 reputable sources for each entry. Sources may be articles, books, videos, or podcasts - any medium is acceptable. Wikipedia is **NOT** an acceptable source, but it can help you find sources - check the citations! Possible sources include (but are not limited to):

- [PBS World History](#)
- [PBS US History](#)
- [National Geographic](#)
- [Crash Course History](#)
- [Vox Missing Chapter](#)
- [Vox History Club](#)
- ["The 15 best history podcasts"](#)
- [Guns, Germs, and Steel](#)
- [History's Greatest Lies](#)
- [The Silk Roads: A New History of the World](#)
- [Women in World History: 1450 to the Present](#)
- See Mrs. Sperry for guidance if you are not sure whether the source you are looking at qualifies.

Universal Truths

- 5 famous quotes, proverbs, or sayings
 - 1 of your selections must be a quote from Shakespeare
 - 2 of your selections must be quotes with attribution (i.e. we know who said the quote - it's not just a common saying)
 - 2 of your selections must be sayings/proverbs/adages with no attribution
 - Your selections should come from one of the following sources:
 - [The New York Times' Quotation Interpretation](#)
 - [Shakespeare Online](#)
 - ["The 100 Most Famous Quotes of All Time"](#)
 - [List of proverbial phrases - Wikipedia](#)

Government

- 10 current news articles
 - These must be published within two weeks of the date when you make the entry.
 - These should be factual news stories and not opinion articles/op-eds (this is a separate category in the project - see that category under "Reading" for more on the difference).
 - 5 must be about U.S. news, and 5 about news from other countries

- You must include two stories on each of the following topics: politics (news about politicians, elections, impeachments, etc.), legislation (new bills/laws, or modifications to existing legislation), war/conflicts, law enforcement/judicial system, other current events (NOT related to sports, celebrities, fashion, pop culture - this is a separate category - can be natural disasters, health, protests, technology, etc.)
- Articles should come from a reputable source - examples include the New York Times, the Washington Post, NPR, BBC, USA Today (but many others would qualify; see Mrs. Sperry if you are unsure whether or not your source qualifies as being reputable)
 - Some of these websites may be behind paywalls. If you encounter this problem, you can try copying and pasting the URL of your desired article into removepaywall.com. Alternatively, you can [sign up for a free digital library card](#) from the Boston Public Library, which will then give you access to a number of news sites.

Observations

- 5 stories of impactful events from your own life and/or the lives of your friends and family
 - At least 3 of your entries must be personal anecdotes from your own life.
 - You may choose to interview a parent, grandparent, or other significant adult in your life for this portion of the project. You may be surprised at the wisdom they are able to share!

For each entry, in addition to recording information about your selections, you will also identify keywords associated with that entry. These are broad/abstract concepts that this entry relates to. Possible keywords include:

- Integrity, honesty, character, competition, generosity, trust, forgiveness
- Justice, injustice, disobedience, morality, tradition, honor, tolerance, progress
- Determination, perseverance, adversity, disappointment, uncertainty, patience, focus, positivity
- Perfectionism, mistakes, failure, curiosity, passion, motivation, fear, courage, productivity
- Wit, wisdom, humor

- Unity, organization
- Overrated, underrated, antiquated

You are NOT limited to the above list. Feel free to select other keywords that apply. You also do not have to include all the words on this list in your database.

Here's how your entries will be divided across the summer and school year:

- Summer assignment (due on the first day of school): 12 entries
- Quarter 1: 12 entries
- Quarter 2: 12 entries + your independent nonfiction reading assignment (details to come)
- Quarter 3-spring break: 12 entries + your independent podcast assignment (details to come)
- Quarter 4 - *The Great Gatsby* you will keep a dialectic journal, which will be useful as you enter AP Literature next year.

TOTAL: 50 entries

For the summer assignment, you must make 2 entries for each letter of REHUGO. For each subsequent quarter of the year, you must spread your entries across at least 3 different letters.

Each entry will be worth 10 points, for a total of 120 or 130 points for each submission. To earn all 10 points, ensure that your entries meet the full criteria described, and be thoughtful, honest, and thorough in your responses. These will be classwork/homework grades in Alma.

This should go without saying, but **absolutely no plagiarism** will be tolerated on this project. This includes copying and pasting from the internet, using rewording tools to regenerate text copied and pasted from the internet, copying from a classmate, and the use of AI, such as ChatGPT. Your work WILL be checked using all available tools, and any evidence of plagiarism will result in a 0. **For the summer assignment, evidence**

of plagiarism means you will no longer be allowed to take AP Lang. For subsequent quarters, it may result in your removal from the course. **DO YOUR OWN WORK** and **WRITE IN YOUR OWN WORDS**. Mrs. Sperry knows your writing voice, so don't think you can slip one past her!

Credit goes to Ms. Bowles of Florida from the AP Lang Facebook Group.