

# Why should I take Advanced Placement English?

*From College Board:*

“

Strong performance on AP Exams is rewarded by colleges and universities worldwide. More than 90 percent of four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant students credit, placement or both on the basis of successful AP exam scores. But performing well on an AP exam means more than just the successful completion of a course; it is the gateway to success in college. Research consistently shows that students who score a 3 or higher [on the AP exam] typically experience greater academic success in college and improved graduation rates than their non-AP student peers. ”



**What colleges do AP students attend?**  
*Coventry students who have taken AP English are currently attending or have attended the following universities:*

Ashland University  
The College of Wooster  
Kent State University (2)  
Loyola University of Chicago  
Malone University  
Miami University  
Mount Holyoke College  
Mount Union College (2)  
New York University (2)  
The Ohio State University (2)  
Toledo University  
University of Akron (8)  
Walsh University (2)

**What do AP English students major in?**  
*Coventry students who have taken AP English have majored in or are currently majoring in:*

History: Education  
Radiologic Technology  
Early Childhood Education  
Latin  
English (3)  
Education: Integrated Language Arts  
Economics  
Philosophy  
Biochemistry  
Civil Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics  
Nursing  
Mechanical Engineering  
Music  
Music Education  
Exercise Science/Physical Therapy  
Politics  
Business Marketing  
Business Management  
Physics

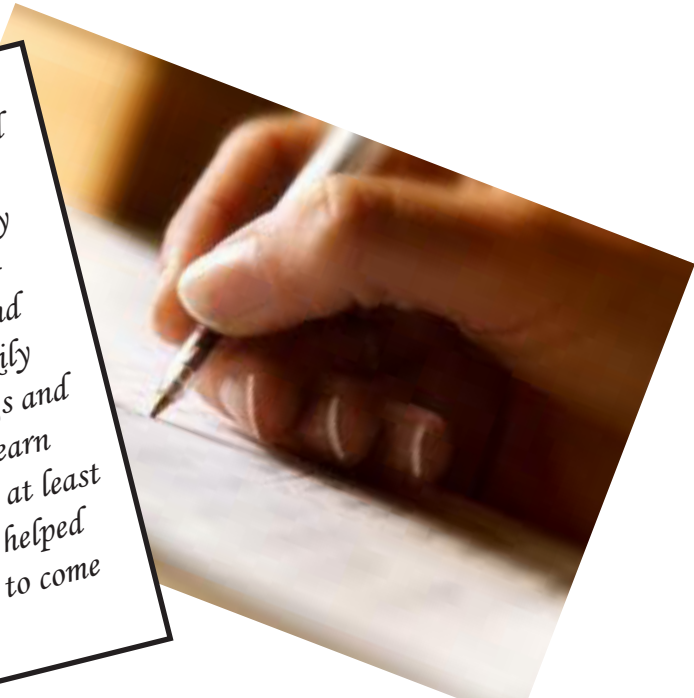
# What do Coventry graduates say about taking AP English?

"Despite the fact that I did not major in English or choose a major that was more involved in English, I found the course to be very beneficial in college. My major only requires one English course and when I took the required class, I found that most of the stuff that we were doing, I already knew. I was extremely prepared for this college course and I found the work we were given to be very simple compared to the work we did in AP English. One of the things that we learned that helped me in college was learning the APA and MLA format since those were the formats that were used in all of my classes in college. Along with this, my writing improved quite a bit after taking AP English and that not only helped me in college, but also it improved my ability to communicate with others in everyday life. I am one to believe that a well written paper or letter will get you very far, and I believe that my increased writing ability that I gained from this course had contributed to my success in college."

"I did not receive any credit for an English class in college, but I completed a portfolio, which allowed me to be placed in a higher level English class. The AP class was beneficial for me because it allowed me to develop my knowledge of literature that I would not be able to gain in a regular English class. My experience in that classroom was invaluable. After moving away to college I was able to have a sophisticated conversation about various important, and well known works of literature due to taking AP English."

"I found it to be extremely beneficial. I got to skip the first English course I would have normally been forced to take. Then once in the higher course, I aced every paper, including my final portfolio. It helped to make English courses easier to navigate."

"I found it extremely beneficial. While most of my classmates were struggling with small grammar mistakes and focusing most of their attention and time towards fixing those simple mistakes, I was able to take the time to write in more detail and spend my time expanding my writing in different ways. Another way AP English has helped me in college is that many of my classes involve classroom discussions. In AP English, we had at least 4 discussion-based classes a week, which really got me thinking about different ways to open myself up in a discussion, and how to incorporate my thoughts verbally and efficiently. My background in AP English was also very helpful in other classes as well, because in AP English, we had a very rigorous course load that made us stay focused and keep on top of our school work so we would not get behind. In my Psychology and Sociology classes, I was again faced with a rigorous course load, consisting of 1-2 tests per week, with an underlying term paper that we were given at the beginning of the year and told to complete on our own time. Having AP taught me time management skills that I will continually use throughout the rest of my life."



*"AP English was probably the most helpful class I took during my career at Coventry High School. The writing skills I learned coupled with honed discussion and debate skills have helped me stand out in many of my classes in college, most noticeably in my English and music-based courses. Both required an extensive amount of writing, which I was already good at, and daily discussions over the material we were learning. Luckily for me, we had almost daily discussions about our readings and just daily life in AP. Those discussions really helped me learn what my opinions actually were and how to argue them at least somewhat productively. The in-class writings probably helped the most, even if it was just because it taught me how to come up with an idea and improve on it as I was writing."*



"I found that taking AP English in high school was very beneficial for many of my college courses. AP English taught me how to read a novel and analyze it. I also learned how to write better papers, and how to get my point across effectively. This past year, I took the class "Literature in Society." It was very similar to AP English. I enjoyed the class so much that I honestly contemplated switching my major. It is so nice to read a passage and try to analyze it. That class felt like a breeze after taking AP. I actually seemed like the kid in class who knew what they were doing. With the rest of my classes, I don't always feel that way."

## Who should take Advanced Placement Literature and Composition?

- Students who enjoy and/or want to learn more about literature and writing
- Students who have felt bored or frustrated in their regular English courses
- Students who want to be surrounded by peers who have an advanced work ethic
- Students who want to be better prepared for college
- Students considering attending a private college or a more exclusive state college
- Students who would like the chance to earn college credit
- Students who want to improve their high school transcripts
- Students who want the personal satisfaction of knowing they challenged themselves
- Students who enjoy taking part in class discussions (or who also enjoy listening to them)



# Frequently Asked Questions about AP English

## **Q: I didn't take Honors English classes. Can I still take AP English?**

**A:** Yes! It may be a bit more of a challenge, and you may feel like a fish out of water for the first couple of weeks, but about 25% of the students who have taken AP English did not take one or any Honors English classes offered, and they still scored at least as well if not better than other students on the AP exam.

## **Q: I don't plan to major in English in college. Should I still take AP English?**

**A:** Absolutely! Most students who take AP English don't go on to major in English. However, reading and writing well are skills you will use in nearly all college courses, not to mention organizational skills and time management. Students who take AP courses tend to perform better in college regardless of their major.

## **Q: Is there summer work?**

**A:** Of course. But, it's mainly there to help you. The first month or so of the class is spent discussing the two novels you will read in the summer. I purposely assign the longest novel in the summer so that you have plenty of time to finish it without worrying too much about deadlines. There is also a writing diagnostic that you will turn in about half-way through the summer.

## **Q: How many books do we read?**

**A:** That number isn't necessarily the same every year, but generally, you will read about five novels during the school year. You will also read three plays in class. Finally, you will read somewhere between four and six books independently, of your own choosing. One to two of those books will be read in a group situation. Remember, AP English is a year-long class. You have more than enough time to get the work done with sufficient time in between assignments.

## **Q: How much homework do we have?**

**A:** Actually, there are very few traditional homework assignments. Most of the assessments come in the form of reading quizzes, essays, and presentations. You will, however, always be reading something.

## **Q: Do I have to buy my own books?**

**A:** Yes. You will have a textbook that contains some of the works, but in general, you will have to purchase or borrow your own novels or plays. All are very easily found, new or used.

## **Q: Why should I take AP instead of post secondary?**

**A:** First of all, you don't have to make that choice. You can do both, and lots of students have. Why not consider doing the best of both worlds? However, keep in mind that AP helps prepare you for college. There is little academic support offered for students already taking college classes. Students also should not assume they will earn a better grade in college than they will in AP, thereby protecting their GPAs. That's not always the case. Also, AP credits are almost always accepted at various colleges, while post-secondary credits may not transfer. Remember, if you skip your senior year in English, you will have skipped a year of reading and writing. College professors in upper-level courses (and not just English) may expect you to be familiar with texts you will not have read because you skipped the class. But, the most important reason to take AP is because you will learn more; you will be more literate, academically and culturally; and you will continue to be an integral part of your high school. It's a decision that you and your family have to make together and decide what's right for you.