



SCHOLAR COACH, INC.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE · FREE RESOURCE

Full-Year Study Plan, 8-Week Plan, and 2-Week Cram Plan

Three ready-to-use schedules for AP English Language, plus a 40-text nonfiction reading list with free sources. Pick the plan that matches your calendar, then follow it week by week.

How the three plans fit together

PLAN	USE IT WHEN	CORE IDEA
Full-year plan	You are starting in the fall and want steady growth	Learn skills in order, add timed writing early, use practice exams as checkpoints
8-week plan	You have two months before the exam	Compress the skills, practice all three essays weekly, take two full exams
2-week cram plan	The exam is close and you need a targeted push	Fix your weakest skill, drill pacing, take one full exam

What you need: the five practice exams in folder 01, the skills guides in folder 03, the step-by-step guides in folder 04, the vocabulary documents in folder 05, and the error log and calendar in folder 07.

Weekly routines that apply to every plan

Build these into every plan, whatever its length.

ROUTINE	TIME	WHAT TO DO
Read	20 minutes, 3–5 days a week	Read one essay, speech, or article from the reading list below. Annotate for situation and choices.
Vocabulary	10 minutes, daily	Study one list from the 300-word vocabulary document, or review the tone-word bank.

ROUTINE	TIME	WHAT TO DO
MCQ set	20–30 minutes, twice a week	Complete 10–15 questions from a practice exam or skill builder. Log every miss.
Timed writing	40 minutes, once a week	Write one essay under timed conditions, rotating synthesis, rhetorical analysis, and argument.
Reflect	15 minutes, weekly	Score the essay, fill the reflection sheet, and update the error log.

Plan A: Full-year study plan (about 36 weeks)

WEEKS	FOCUS	KEY DOCUMENTS	CHECKPOINT
1–4	Rhetorical situation and the appeals. Learn SOAPSTone and the vocabulary of ethos, pathos, logos, exigence.	Unit 1 skills guide; Rhetorical Terms Master Glossary (families 1–2); Analysis Frameworks	Write one rhetorical analysis essay; score it with the rubric
5–8	Claims, evidence, and reasoning. Learn to find a thesis, separate claim from evidence, and trace a line of reasoning.	Unit 2 skills guide; MCQ Reading Questions guide	Reading MCQ set of 15; start the error log
9–12	Organization and methods of development. Learn transitions, cause/effect, comparison, narration as evidence.	Unit 3 skills guide; Writing Toolkit templates	One timed argument essay
13–16	Style: diction, syntax, tone. Learn the tone-word bank and DIDLS.	Unit 4 skills guide; Tone and Attitude Word Bank	Timed rhetorical analysis; score the commentary row
17–20	The synthesis essay. Learn source reading, conversation among sources, and citation.	Synthesis Essay Step by Step; OPTIC and SMELL	Timed synthesis essay
21–24	Argument and sophistication. Learn qualification, counterargument, concession, tension and complexity.	Argument Essay Step by Step; Units 5–9 guides	Timed argument essay with a sophistication move

WEEKS	FOCUS	KEY DOCUMENTS	CHECKPOINT
25–27	Writing (student-draft) MCQ questions. Learn revision, transition, and tone-matching items.	MCQ Writing Questions guide	Writing-set MCQ of 20 questions
28–30	Practice Exam 1 (full), then review. Fix the top two error categories.	Practice Exam 1 and its answer key	Full exam; record your score
31–33	Targeted review based on Exam 1. Practice Exam 2.	Error log; relevant guides	Full exam; compare to Exam 1
34	Practice Exam 3 , full timing.	Practice Exam 3	Full exam
35	Light review: vocabulary, rubric rows, pacing plan. Rest.	Test-Day Playbook	One short essay
36	Exam week: no new material. Sleep, review the playbook.	Test-Day Playbook	None

Plan B: 8-week plan

WEEK	FOCUS	TASKS
1	Diagnostic and foundations	Take a half-length diagnostic (one reading set, one writing set, one essay). Read the AP Lang Exam Explained and the Rubrics Decoded. Start the error log.
2	Rhetorical situation, claims, and evidence	Unit 1 and Unit 2 guides. Reading MCQ guide. One timed rhetorical analysis.
3	Reasoning, organization, style	Units 3 and 4 guides. Tone and Attitude Word Bank. One timed argument essay.
4	Synthesis and the writing questions	Synthesis guide; MCQ Writing guide. One timed synthesis essay.
5	Practice Exam 1 (full)	Review every miss. Update the error log and find your two weakest skills.
6	Targeted repair	Read the guides for your two weakest skills. Do the skill builders for those skills. One timed essay of your weakest type.

WEEK	FOCUS	TASKS
7	Practice Exam 2 (full)	Compare to Exam 1. Rewrite your lowest-scoring essay.
8	Taper	One more timed essay, the pacing plan, vocabulary review, and rest.

Plan C: 2-week cram plan

Use this only when time is short. It assumes you have read the exam overview and know the format.

DAY	TASK
1	Take a full-length practice exam (Exam 1). Score it using the calculator.
2	Review every missed MCQ and fill the error log. Identify your two weakest skill categories.
3	Read the guides for those two skills. Do 15 related MCQs.
4	Study the Rubrics Decoded. Write a rhetorical analysis in 40 minutes. Score it.
5	Study the Synthesis guide. Write a synthesis in 55 minutes (15 reading + 40 writing). Score it.
6	Study the Argument guide. Write an argument essay in 40 minutes. Score it.
7	Rest or light review: tone words, key terms, thesis templates.
8	Take a second full-length practice exam (Exam 2).
9	Review and update the error log. Fix the top two error codes.
10	Do the MCQ Writing guide drills. Rewrite your weakest essay.
11	Timed essay of your weakest type. Review the commentary templates.
12	30 minutes of MCQs. Reread the Test-Day Playbook.
13	Light review only. Prepare your materials and plan your morning.
14	Exam day or the day before: no cramming. Sleep.

The 40-text nonfiction reading list

Reading widely is the single best way to prepare for the exam passages. All of these are in the public domain unless noted, so you can read them free. Start with sources like American Rhetoric's Speech Bank for speeches, Project Gutenberg and Standard Ebooks for essays and books, and the Library of Congress classroom materials for primary sources. Search each title by author and name.

Free libraries (links) - [American Rhetoric Speech Bank](#) - [American Rhetoric Top 100 American Speeches](#) - [Project Gutenberg](#) - [Standard Ebooks](#) - [LibriVox \(free audiobooks\)](#) - [Library of Congress classroom materials](#)

Speeches and addresses (1–15)

#	TEXT	AUTHOR	WHY READ IT
1	"Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" (1775)	Patrick Henry	Climactic structure, antithesis, appeal to action
2	Gettysburg Address (1863)	Abraham Lincoln	Compression, parallelism, redefining purpose
3	Second Inaugural Address (1865)	Abraham Lincoln	Tone of conciliation, biblical allusion
4	"What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" (1852)	Frederick Douglass	Irony, direct address, shift in tone
5	"Declaration of Sentiments" (1848)	Elizabeth Cady Stanton	Adaptation of a model text for a new purpose
6	"Ain't I a Woman?" (1851)	Sojourner Truth	Voice, rhetorical questions, ethos
7	"Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?" (1873)	Susan B. Anthony	Legal reasoning in a persuasive speech
8	"Citizenship in a Republic" (1910)	Theodore Roosevelt	The "man in the arena" passage; style and metaphor
9	"I Will Fight No More Forever" (1877)	Chief Joseph	Brevity, dignity, pathos
10	War Message to Congress (1917)	Woodrow Wilson	Building a case; shifting from neutral to committed
11	First Inaugural Address (1933)	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Reassurance and exigence
12	"Cooper Union Address" (1860)	Abraham Lincoln	Evidence-based argument

#	TEXT	AUTHOR	WHY READ IT
13	"The Gettysburg Address" in contrast: Everett's oration (1863)	Edward Everett	Contrast in length and style with Lincoln
14	Farewell Address (1796)	George Washington	Advice, formality, long sentences
15	"Cross of Gold" (1896)	William Jennings Bryan	Biblical imagery, building to a famous closing

Essays and arguments (16–30)

#	TEXT	AUTHOR	WHY READ IT
16	"A Modest Proposal" (1729)	Jonathan Swift	Satire and irony
17	"Self-Reliance" (1841)	Ralph Waldo Emerson	Aphorism, paradox
18	"Civil Disobedience" (1849)	Henry David Thoreau	Argument from principle
19	<i>Walden</i> , "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For" (1854)	Henry David Thoreau	Metaphor, extended analogy
20	"Of Studies" (1625)	Francis Bacon	Compression and balance
21	"On the Pleasure of Hating"	William Hazlitt	Stylish, opinionated essay
22	"A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (1792)	Mary Wollstonecraft	Argument with ethos and logos
23	<i>Common Sense</i> (1776)	Thomas Paine	Plain style and persuasion
24	"The Declaration of Independence" (1776)	Thomas Jefferson	Structure of a formal argument
25	"Of Our Spiritual Strivings," <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> (1903)	W. E. B. Du Bois	Metaphor, personal and political voice
26	"Letter from Birmingham Jail" (1963, not public domain)	Martin Luther King Jr.	Anticipating counterarguments; find it through your library or a licensed anthology
27	"The Death of the Moth" (1942, not public domain)	Virginia Woolf	Lyric essay; find it in a library anthology
28	"Shooting an Elephant" (1936, check status in your country)	George Orwell	Narrative as argument

#	TEXT	AUTHOR	WHY READ IT
29	"Politics and the English Language" (1946, not public domain in all countries)	George Orwell	Argument about writing itself
30	"A Room of One's Own" (1929)	Virginia Woolf	Argument through narrative; check your country's public-domain status

Letters, journalism, and primary sources (31–40)

#	TEXT	AUTHOR	WHY READ IT
31	Letters between Abigail and John Adams (1776)	Abigail and John Adams	Private argument, wit, an early call for women's rights
32	"Letters from an American Farmer" (1782)	J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur	Defining identity
33	<i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i> (excerpts)	Benjamin Franklin	Self-presentation, ethos
34	<i>Up from Slavery</i> (1901)	Booker T. Washington	Narrative as persuasion
35	"The Atlanta Compromise" (1895)	Booker T. Washington	A speech to compare with Du Bois
36	"The Jungle" excerpts (1906)	Upton Sinclair	Muckraking journalism and reform
37	"How the Other Half Lives" (1890)	Jacob Riis	Documentary persuasion with photographs
38	"Twenty Years at Hull-House" (1910)	Jane Addams	Personal narrative for social purpose
39	"The Journals of Lewis and Clark" (excerpts)	Meriwether Lewis and William Clark	Observation, reporting
40	Federalist Papers No. 10 and No. 51 (1787–88)	James Madison	Dense, logical argument

Note on dates: some twentieth-century texts above are still under copyright in some countries. Where I marked that, find them in a library or licensed anthology rather than downloading an unauthorized copy.

Study habits that raise scores

1. **Annotate actively.** Mark the situation, the thesis, and two or three choices in every passage you read.
2. **Write about what you read.** After reading, write one sentence of purpose and one sentence naming a choice and its effect.

3. **Read the sources on the exam like a conversation.** Ask which source would argue with which.
4. **Keep the error log.** Every miss becomes a lesson.
5. **Protect your rest.** A tired reader misses tone shifts and sentence relationships, the very things the exam tests.

Want a plan built around **your** student?

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