

BOOK LIST

AP[®] English Language & Composition

Fall 2024 / Spring 2025

Title	Edition	Author/Editor	ISBN	Available on the Academy's Bookstore?
The Elements of Style	4 th	Strunk, William & White, E.B.	978-0205309023	Yes—find it here.
Go Figure!: An Introduction to Figures of Speech in the Bible	2018	Hans, Julia	978-1973632177	Yes – Find it here.
How to Read a Book	2014	Adler, Mortimer & Van Doren, Charles	978-0671212094	Yes – Find it here.
Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Students: Helpful, Descriptive, Precise, Synonyms, Antonyms, and Related Terms Every High School and College Student Should Know How to Use	2014	Olson, David; Bevilacqua, Michelle; & Cord Hayes, Justin	978-1440573095	Yes – Find it here.
Student's Guide to Writing College Papers: Fifth Edition (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing)	5 th / 2019	Turabian, Kate L.	978-0226430263	Yes – Find it here.
The Critical Reader: AP [®] English Language and Composition Edition	2020	Meltzer, Erica L.	978-0997517859	No**
The Great Tradition: Classic Readings on What it Means to be an Educated Human Being	2009	Gamble, Richard	Hardcover 978-1933859255 Paperback 978-1935191568	No
The Oxford Essential Guide to Writing	2000	Kane, Thomas S.	978-0425176405	Yes – Find it here.

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Please note:

- Books and materials requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.
- Books marked with * do not have required editions. Page numbers will differ between publishers.
- **The most current edition of *The Critical Reader: AP English Language and Composition* can be found [on The Critical Reader's official website](#).
- Book synopses and potential disclaimers can be found on the following pages of this PDF.

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Go Figure!: An Introduction to Figures of Speech in the Bible by Julia Hans, Ph.D.

This book offers a well-researched and expertly expressed introduction to figures of speech by examining examples from both popular culture and the Bible. A well-informed understanding of figurative speech results in readers who recognize what points to pay special attention to while analyzing literature. It also equips writers to begin using figurative language to strengthen the clarity, depth, and appeal of their own work. Readers will additionally learn the technical terms needed to express rhetorical analysis with clarity and intellectual power.

How to Read a Book by Mortimer Adler

This book serves as a clear and accessible manual to higher levels of active, analytical, critical reading. The author, Mortimer Adler, dedicated his life to making meaningful literature accessible to the regular reader. In this book, he leads readers thoughtfully into the highest level of reading—syntopical reading—the level demanded by skilled writers of synthesis essays. Good writers are good readers; great writers are demanding readers, and this book teaches demanding reading skills.

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Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Students: Helpful, Descriptive, Precise Synonyms, Antonyms, and Related Terms Every High School and College Student Should Know How to Use by David Olsen, Michelle Bevilacqua, Justin Cord Hayes, & Robert W. Bly

This book breathes applicable relevance into vocabulary study. All advanced writers recognize the value of the illusive, but most well-fitted word. Writers starting on academic consideration of diction will learn to increase their power by replacing common, lack-luster words such as “push-over” with more precise, formal language such as “pliable.” This switch helps student writers to be taken more seriously by demanding and critical academic readers. Advanced writers ready for more subtle consideration of diction can go deeper by reflecting on the connotated inflection each word carries into its literal meaning; for example, a successful student is better described as “amenable” than “complaisant” since “complaisant” may imply a sense of apathy. This thesaurus is designed to meet student writers where they are in this life-long quest for greater eloquence, making it easier to find academic words by their common meaning, easier to compare related words in order to decide which is best, and easier to understand how to properly use each word (every word ends with an example of its use). Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Students pushes past mere memorization into ever-expanding eloquence.

Student's Guide to Writing College Papers by Kate Turabian

This book introduces students to the steps of writing college papers, especially research papers, and provides instruction in finding and citing sources—necessary skills to avoid plagiarism and submit high-quality, well supported writing in the proper format. Written by Kate Turabian, who is credited for setting the highest standards in formatting, this format is still used by preeminent American universities. Kate Turabian revised Chicago Style to better accommodate the needs of student writers, and her book demystifies the process of research writing. Contributors to the Fourth Edition revisions added sections which specifically address the needs of online researchers. Students of Turabian's work will be well-prepared to succeed in the rigors of college writing formatting and citations—presenting polished papers.

The Critical Reader: AP® English Language and Composition Edition by Erica L. Meltzer

This book is the best of its kind. After decades of private tutoring in Boston and New York, Erica L. Meltzer was inspired to write her first test prep book in 2007, when her search for SAT practice material proved disappointing. Since then, she has authored several prep books for a variety of standardized tests. After years of her own searching, Mrs. Barbosa (the course creator of AP Eng. Lang.) deemed this text to be the most comprehensive and—more importantly—most accurate on the market. While other books offer much helpful advice and instruction, this text offers detailed instruction in an organizational manner that equips students to identify and understand the patterns of AP language question style, and additionally includes an extensive list of resources. Meltzer’s text leads to increased confidence on exam day.

The Great Tradition: Classic Readings on What It Means to Be an Educated Human Being by Richard Gamble

This book ushers readers into the rich legacy of the western liberal arts education. Historian Richard Gamble strategically selected each excerpt to draw students into conversation on the innate value of genuine education—a conversation with history’s most influential minds as well as more modern thinkers in the classical tradition of western thought. From Greek philosophers (such as Xenophon, Plato, and Aristotle) to modern writers (such as Dorothy Sayers, C.S. Lewis, and Eric Voegelin), readings engage students in the Great Tradition of western educational philosophy. The readings also serve as inspirational examples of how to powerfully communicate worthy ideas, allowing student writers to learn from the masters, and grow in eloquence and understanding through their interactions with timeless writings and ideas.

The Oxford Essential Guide to Writing by Thomas S. Kane

This book provides students clear guidelines on how to control the elements of writing and achieve a formal, academic tone. Thomas S. Kane guides student writers, step-by-step through the rigorous journey to college-level analytical academic writing, with the depth only such a seasoned and knowledgeable guide could offer. The next best thing to one-on-one mentorship, Kane’s guide models and explains the goal of his book: the elevated use of language.

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