

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition, Grade 11 Introductory Reading Activity

Selection: *Thank You For Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion* by Jay Heinrichs

NOTE: make certain you have the **3rd edition** or **4th edition**

Rationale: Many teachers of rhetoric and composition claim “everything’s an argument,” and in many respects, this is true. When we write, whether we are explaining a process or making an academic argument, we want to convince our audience that we are credible, convincing writers. The book *Thank You For Arguing* essentially outlines how we effectively make a claim, and convince others that this claim is, not necessarily right, but that it is valid and can be substantiated. It is important that you begin studying this curriculum with the basic components of argument — not to win an argument, but to substantiate that argument.

Thank You For Arguing will introduce you to the art of rhetoric and academic arguments. Heinrichs has divided his informative yet entertaining book of lessons into five sections (Introduction, Offense, Defense, Advanced Offense, & Advanced Agreement). He also provides appendices which include a summary of the main rhetorical tools and a glossary of rhetorical terms. More importantly, this book will serve as an excellent bridge between the expository essay and persuasion analysis of Pre-AP Honors English 10 and the stylistic and argumentative analysis of AP English 11.

Objectives: Students will be able to read through a text, noting and explaining the key components of argumentative skills to then utilize in their own writing throughout the school year.

Directions: Summarize & Reflect

Read the book, one section at a time (there are four major sections and a short introduction). Obtain a composition notebook. You will need this notebook the entire year in AP Language. In your notebook, as you read, take notes on key terms WITH examples. Terms below:

Rhetoric	Irony
Ethos, pathos, logos, kairos	Metonymy
Audience	Refutation
Purpose	Arrangement
Anaphora	Deduction
Antithesis	Induction
Chiasmus	Concession
Fallacies	Paradox
Passive voice	Asyndeton
Metaphor	Polysyndeton

Due Date: The third week of school you will turn in your notes after completing an in-class comprehension exam. You will also be assessed on the use of argumentative terms in writing.

Questions: Contact one of the following teachers via email over break:

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