

**AP Language & Composition – MacLeod
Curriculum Guide**

Unit	Big Question/Idea	Texts
Education	What is the purpose of education?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Purpose of Education” by Martin Luther King Jr. • “Another Brick in the Wall” by Pink Floyd • “Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson (summer) • <i>Getting Grit</i> (excerpt) by Caroline Adams Miller • “Becoming a Real Person” by David Brooks • “Disdain for the Less Educated Is the Last Acceptable Prejudice” by Michael Sandel • “But Can They Write?” by Lynn O’Shaughnessy • “In Defense of a Liberal Education” by Fareed Zakaria
Foundations of American Values	Where do our country’s values come from and what do they really mean?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Crisis” by Thomas Paine • “The Declaration of Independence” • “What is the American Dream?” by Kimberly Amadeo
Happiness	What is happiness?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Don’t Indulge. Be Happy” by Elizabeth Dunn and Michael Norton • TedTalk – “What Makes a Good Life?” • “What is Your Purpose?” by David Brooks • “Finding Purpose for a Good Life” by Dhruv Khullar
Moral Reasoning	What’s the right thing to do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice ppt. • Michael Sandel – <i>Justice, A Reader</i> (excerpts): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeremy Bentham – <i>Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> ○ Milton Friedman – <i>Free to Choose</i> ○ Immanuel Kant – <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> • “Veil of Opulence” by Benjamin Hale • “What Milton Friedman Missed About Social Inequality.” • “America’s Humongous Wealth Gap Is Widening Further.”

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Rubin – “Philosophy Prepared Me for a Career in Finance and Government” • Philosophy in Prison - TedTalk
Civil Disobedience	When is it right to break the law?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoreau – “On Civil Disobedience” and “Life Without Principle” (excerpts) • MLK Jr. – “Letter from Birmingham Jail” • John Rawls – <i>A Theory of Justice</i> (excerpts)
Science	What is science?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T.H. Huxley - “The Method of Scientific Investigation • Max Planck – “The Meaning and Limits of Exact Science” • Werner Heisenberg – “The Idea of Nature in Contemporary Physics” • James Jeans – “On Free Will” • Jacob Bronowski “The Nature of Scientific Reasoning” • Jacob Bronowski – “Knowledge or Certainty” (film) • William James – “Pragmatism” (summer) • William Wordsworth – “The Prelude”
Memoir/ Immigration and Race	How do authors tell their own stories? Who is entitled to the American Dream?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Undocumented: A Dominican Boy’s Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League</i> by Dan-el Padilla Peralta • <i>The Art of Memoir</i> (excerpts) by Mary Karr • “Illegal, Undocumented, Unauthorized: The Terms of Immigration Reporting” by Stephen Hiltner (NYTimes) • “The Rise of the Amphibians” by David Brooks (NYTimes) • “What is White Privilege, Really?” by Cory Collins (Teaching Tolerance) • “Minorities Speak Out on Racial Acceptance and Diversity” by Collin Moore (San Marin Pony Express) • “Minorities Who ‘Whiten’ Job Resumes Get More Interviews” by Dina Gerdeman (Harvard Business Review)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination” by Marianne Bertrand and Mullainathan Sendhil (American Economic Review) • “How the GI Bill’s Promise Was Denied to a Million Black Veterans” (History.com) • “Black Homeowners Face Discrimination in Appraisals” – NYTimes • “Your Home’s Value Is Based on Racism” – NY Times • “Being Me” by Daisy Rodriguez (San Marin student)
Gatsby	Is there a dark side to the American Dream?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Rhetoric in American Music	How does music portray the American Dream?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Thunder Road” and “The River” by Bruce Springsteen
High School Sports	Are high school sports harmful to academics?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Case Against High School Sports” • “High School Sport Aren’t Killing Academics” (both The Atlantic)
Gender	Do we really understand gender and how do perceptions of gender affect us?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Girl Power” by Harbor Fraser Hodder (Harvard Magazine) • “Sex is Not Binary”, NY Times • “Stop Using Phony Science to Justify Transphobia” by Simon(e) D Sun
Rhetorical Concepts (inserted throughout year)	What is rhetoric and how does it work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socrates/Rhetoric ppt. • AP Lang Skills – College Board chart • Rhetorical Situation/Triangle - LoC • SOAPStone • Exigence • Ethos Logos Pathos – handout and LoC

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNL Point Counterpoint (ad hominem) • Inductive and Deductive Reasoning – LoC • Argumentation 101 - handout • Rhetorical Strategies - packet • Rhetorical Fallacies - packet • Absolute and Qualified Claims - handout • Political Rhetoric in <i>Julius Caesar</i> – PBS • “Baseball vs. Football” by George Carlin • Visual rhetoric – LoC (Dodge advertisement)
Parallel Structure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King Jr. • Parallel Structures – LoC (pp. 339-342) • Biblical Rhetoric (see Writing Style & Grammar below)
Writing – Style and Grammar (inserted throughout year)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clauses: independent and subordinate • Fragments and run-on sentences • Punctuation • Conciseness – presentation • Conciseness - LoC pg. 592 (exer. 1) • Verbs – LoC pg 498 (exer. 1) • Simple Sentences and Fragments – LoC pg.252 (Ex 1, 3) • Coordination in Compound Sentence – LoC pg. 698 (exer. 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biblical Rhetoric • Subordination in Complex Sentence – LoC pg 999 • Types of Sentences – LoC pg. 893 (exer. 1) • Misplaced/Dangling Modifiers – LoC pg. 790 and worksheet • Pronoun Reference - worksheets • Writing Expectations – misc. usage
Tone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tone Words – handout • Writing about Tone - handout

Huck Finn and Race	When is it acceptable, if at all, to use the N-word? Should we read <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The N-Word – CBS 60 Minutes segment • Robot Huck - youtube
Smartphones	Are smartphones harmful to teens?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Has the Smartphone Destroyed a Generation?” by Jean Twenge (The Atlantic)
American Theater	How does race affect the American Dream?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fences” by August Wilson