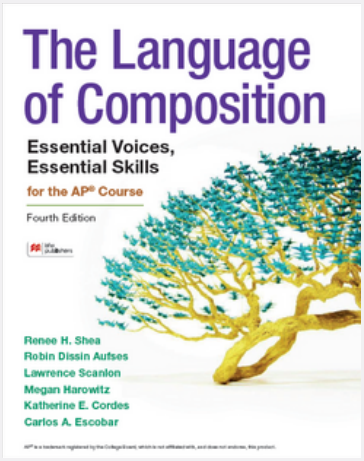
The Language of Composition, 4th Edition

Renée H. Shea | Robin Dissin Aufses | Lawrence Scanlon | Megan M. Harowitz | Katherine E. Cordes | Carlos A. Escobar
ISBN 1319535658 © 2025



Since its first edition, *The Language of Composition, Fourth Edition,* was designed specifically for the AP® English Language course. Its unique structure of skill-building opening chapters combined with an engaging thematic anthology provides the flexibility you need to plan your year and differentiate based on your students' needs. In this edition, the book you know and love now fully aligns to the new AP® Course and Exam Description.

Chapters 1-3 cover the reading and writing skills key to success in the course and on the AP® Exam. Chapters 4-9 are anthology chapters arranged by the timeless themes, such as Identity, Money, and Justice, that help bring our readings to life. Each of these thematic chapters offers a wide variety of classic and contemporary writing designed to foster classroom conversation, encourage students to ponder enduring questions, and promote connections not only between and among the texts themselves but also with the vibrant cultural conversations taking place in the world today. Bring history to life with a lively narrative and firsthand accounts of the period.

Features

9 Chapters, 9 AP® Units: Making the AP® course work for you.
Nine chapters in this edition means it's easy to align to the nine AP® units. Yet the flexible structure you know and love hasn't changed: Skill-building opening chapters followed by an engaging thematic anthology of nonfiction. We know that not every classroom is the same —and you need a book that's right for you. The Language of Composition, Fourth Edition is flexible enough to make it your own, with ample structure and guidance to follow the AP® CED if you choose.

Opening chapters provide targeted instruction covering all the AP® course skills.
The opening chapters develop key reading and writing skills for the three types of essays on the AP® Exam: Rhetorical Analysis, Argument, and Synthesis. Designed with flexibility in mind, these can be taught at the beginning of the year, or in alignment with the new course framework.

Thematic Chapters Offer a Wide Range of Essential Voices from the Past and Present.
Central Essays, Classic Essays, and Other Voices spark discussion and foster critical thinking. The authors of these works articulate complex lines of reasoning to build compelling arguments, and craft powerful rhetoric through their command of style. These works present diverse perspectives on timeless—and timely—issues and ideas, inviting students to delve deeply into the chapter theme.

Conversations Develop and Reinforce AP® Synthesis Skills.
In each chapter, this section provides sources and guiding questions that help students use the words and ideas of others to develop their own arguments.

Supplements

At BFW Publishers, we pride ourselves on our teacher resources and support. Written by experts and designed to make your job easier, these resources provide the extra lift you need to help students achieve success.

- Teacher's Edition | ISBN 978-1-319-46921-4
- Test Bank Assessment Suite | ISBN 978-1-319-47574-1
- Teacher's Resource Materials
- LearningCurve Adaptive Modules on Grammar/Mechanics
- Digital Collection of Additional Full-Length Works

Teacher Resources - downloadable through our digital platform

Comprehensive Digital Testbank - in addition to Achieve Online

Scan the QR Code to Learn More.

BFW Publishers

AP® and Pre-AP® are trademarks registered by the College Board, which is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, these products.

Achieve
BFW Publishers

Our digital platform Achieve includes:

- Teacher's Edition e-book
- Student Edition e-book
- Editable Pacing Guides
- Activities
- Organizers
- Correlation Guides



Supplements

NEW! Continuous Reinforcement of AP® Skills gives you AP® exam prep where you need it.

- AP® tips in the margins of the opening chapters give students memorable, on-the-spot advice for applying the skills they're learning to the AP® exam.
- AP® Unit Introductions preview essential knowledge and AP® Unit skills in the thematic chapters.
- AP® FRQ exam prompts accompany all thematic chapter readings. No matter what you choose to assign, students will always get AP® exam practice.
- AP® Reading and Composition MCQ practice at the end of each thematic chapter provides opportunities for formative assessment, class discussion, group work, and other in-class activities.
- An AP® exam at the back of the book gives students the chance to practice taking a full exam.



NEW! Expanded question sets provide targeted practice for key AP® Language skills. The comprehensive, in-depth questions and writing prompts that follow each reading enable students to link reading with writing, guiding students from understanding what a text is about to analysis of how the content is presented and why. All questions are tagged to the AP® Big Ideas to help you strategically choose what to assign based on student skill gaps and a given AP® Unit's Essential Knowledge and Skills.

- Understanding and Interpreting questions lay the foundation for analysis, guiding students from understanding to analysis.
- Analyzing Language, Style, and Structure questions ask students to examine how the writer's style choices create meaning.
- Topics for Composing provide extended essay and project ideas, always beginning with practice AP® exam prompts.



NEW! Fresh Thematic Chapters and Conversations Two new thematic chapters and six new Conversations will keep classroom discussion fresh and engaging.

Scan the QR Code to Learn More.

BFW Publishers

AP® and Pre-AP® are trademarks registered by the College Board, which is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, these products.