

**Pre-AP English I and II Overview**  
**Prepared for 12/14/2021 Board Meeting**

**Pre-AP English I:**

**Overview:**

Pre-AP English 1 focuses on the reading, writing, and language skills that have immediate relevance for students and that will be essential for their future coursework.

Texts take center stage in the Pre-AP English 1 classroom, inspiring and preparing all students for close, critical reading and analytical writing. The course trains the reader to observe the small details in a text to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole. It also trains the writer to focus on crafting complex sentences, building this foundational skill en route to more sophisticated, longer-form analyses.

**Areas of Focus:**

The Pre-AP English areas of focus are practices that students develop and leverage as they engage with content. These areas of focus are vertically aligned to the practices embedded in other English courses in high school, including AP, and in college, giving students multiple opportunities to strengthen and deepen their work with these skills throughout their education. These areas of focus help to identify and prioritize the practices that are so fundamental to the study of English that they occur consistently throughout the full course of study.

Pre-AP English Areas of Focus:

- **Reading closely:** Students read closely and analyze a range of complex literary and informational texts.
- **Valuing evidence:** Students value textual evidence and incorporate it effectively in writing and speaking.
- **Noticing language choices:** Students understand how writers and speakers use specific words and sentences to move the thoughts, emotions, and actions of readers and listeners.

**Course at a Glance:**

The tables below show the English 1 course organized by four units of study.

Underlying Unit Foundations

These big ideas are integrated across all units:

- Engaging with texts
- Constructing texts
- Focusing on language
- Investigating through research
- Entering the conversation

**Pre-AP English II:**

**Overview:**

English 2 builds on the foundation of English 1, with an emphasis on the recursive moves that matter in preparing students for the challenges of college-level reading, writing, and discussion. While English 1 introduces the fundamental routines of close observation, critical analysis, and appreciation of author's craft, English 2 requires students to apply those same practices to a new host of nonfiction and literary texts. As readers, students develop a vigilant awareness of how the poet, playwright, novelist, and writer of nonfiction alike can masterfully manipulate language to serve their unique purposes. As writers, students compose more nuanced analytical essays without losing sight of the importance of well-crafted sentences and a sense of cohesion.

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**Underlying Unit Foundations:**

These big ideas are addressed across all units:

- Engaging with texts
- Constructing texts
- Focusing on language
- Investigating through research
- Entering the conversation