



Teaching Style Analysis

This workshop offers tested and proven materials and instruction for teaching style analysis to both Advanced Placement® English and Pre-AP®/Honors English classes.

The program is designed to provide a systematic analysis of a writer's style. When our students finish, they are skilled in analyzing the kinds of prose and poetry passages that appear on the Advanced Placement® English Literature and Composition exam. For our purposes, this packet breaks the elements of style into six units of study:

1. tone and attitude
2. diction
3. detail
4. point of view
5. organization
6. syntax

Within some categories is a variety of synonyms that have appeared on Advanced Placement English tests over the years. We believe that, by teaching these six areas, we can demystify the process of style analysis for our students. You will notice that the sample time line suggests a six-week unit. This is the format we have used most often, but we have done it in a variety of other sequences. We have taught the entire unit to 11th and 12th graders. We have taught the diction and detail sections at ninth grade, point of view at tenth grade, organization at eleventh grade, and syntax at twelfth grade. All these variations have worked.

We supplement our poetry instruction with analysis of techniques such as punctuation, visual layout on the page, omission of detail, rhyme scheme, and so on.

While this workshop is best delivered in a two- to three-day format for comprehensive understanding and opportunities for practice, a one-day format is available in which teachers and the presenter determines which of the devices need addressing most.