Taking CAP English Literature can lead to a future in...

* [American Studies](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-american-studies) [**Anthropology**](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-anthropology) [Art History & Criticism](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-art-history-criticism-and-conservation)
* [**Education**](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-education)[**English**](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-english)[Ethnic Studies](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-ethnic-studies-general)
* [Film Studies](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-film-studies) [**History**](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-history) [Journalism](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-journalism)
* [Library and Information Science](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-library-and-information-science) [Linguistics](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-linguistics) [**Mass Communications**](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-mass-communications)
* [Philosophy](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-philosophy) [**Political Science & Government**](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-political-science-and-government) [**Psychology**](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-psychology)
* [Religious Studies](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-religious-studies) [Sociology](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-sociology) [Theater Arts](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition#m=major-theater-arts)

“[College] graduation rates for AP English Literature students are 62 percent higher than graduation rates for students who took other English courses in high school.”

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Read this paragraph closely: Some students ask me why we study literature as part of the Shepard Academy curriculum, and it’s a valid question. If we’re being honest, few professions will require you to analyze literature. But most careers do require the exact skills you’ll be developing in this class: close reading, analytical writing, critical thinking, and deep, collaborative discussion. I **absolutely** guarantee AP Literature will help you in your future career. Maybe it will foster a love of literature in you, too!

On a personal note, my dad enjoyed a long and successful career as a corporate attorney. He says new attorneys frequently need help with writing skills because they are deficient in grammar and analytical writing strategies. In fact, law schools cite English as a suitable major for pre-law programs. I hope I’ve convinced those of you who are interested in law, government, or political careers.

However, even if you’re not interested in law, you can see from the list at the top of this page that AP Literature will help you develop the crucial skills necessary for any high-level profession. Check out the following two quotes from The Law Dictionary and Time Magazine.

**The Law Dictionary:**

Law schools do not require a specific undergraduate degree to be admitted to law school. Instead, law schools look for students with writing, debate, speaking, and English skills. Undergraduate classes that build these skills will help prepare prospective attorneys for law school and their future career.

Writing skills are needed for creating professional legal documents. Debate and speaking classes are beneficial to prepare attorneys to argue cases in court. English skills will assist attorneys in speaking and writing with proper grammar so the attorney's work will be taken seriously by others.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Time Magazine:**

Raymond Mar, a psychologist at York University in Canada, and Keith Oatley, a professor emeritus of cognitive psychology at the University of Toronto, reported in studies published in 2006 and 2009 that individuals who often read fiction appear to be better able to understand other people, empathize with them and view the world from their perspective. This link persisted even after the researchers factored in the possibility that more empathetic individuals might choose to read more novels.

That immersion [in deep reading] is supported by the way the brain handles language rich in detail, allusion and metaphor: by creating a mental representation that draws on the same brain regions that would be active if the scene were unfolding in real life. The emotional situations and moral dilemmas that are the stuff of literature are also vigorous exercise for the brain, propelling us inside the heads of fictional characters and even, studies suggest, increasing our real-life capacity for empathy.