

## AP® English Lit: What's to be Done

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**By May, students must be able to:**  
(a baker's dozen skills)

1. Demonstrate knowledge in a minimum of 9 areas (which may overlap): 2 novels, 2 plays, 2 pre-1900 works, 2 post-1900 work, 2 comedies, 2 tragedies, 2 poets (one old, one new), and 2 essayists (one old, one new).
2. Write on demand (1) response to literature/literary analysis on novels and plays, (2) compare/contrast essays; (3) style analysis for both prose and poetry.
3. Use any past Q3 for a “process” multi-paragraph essays and for a timed writing.
4. Write a well-focused thesis sentence that identifies the subject and clarifies the direction of the essay; it does not repeat from the prompt.
5. Show mastery of concrete detail (examples, quotes, support, plot references, evidence) and commentary (analysis and interpretation), sentence variety, parallel structure, figurative language, integrating / embedding / incorporating quotations smoothly into their own sentences, varying subject openers, and using a worthy vocabulary.
6. Write mature and insightful commentary to complement their concrete detail.
7. Analyze any element of style analysis, whether or not the devices are named in the prompt.
8. Read and understand prose and poetry from the old guys, including, but not limited to, the Metaphysicals and the Romantics.
9. Answer multiple-choice questions efficiently and quickly from AP samples.
10. Have a working knowledge of the literature terms studied—no “fling and sling” approach to using terminology in an essay.
11. Show grasp of major trends and periods in literature from the Greeks to the present.
12. Analyze any poem given, showing an understanding of the poetic form and the specific devices that make it different from prose.
13. Demonstrate an understanding of tone and attitude.

*Jane Schaffer, San Diego*