

AP[®] WRITING 101



The graphic features the letters A, P, and E in large, bold, black font. A light beige horizontal bar is positioned across the middle of the letters. Below the bar, the words 'Assert.', 'Prove.', and 'Explain.' are written in a serif font, each centered under its corresponding letter. The background is a light-colored wooden surface with a cup of coffee, a laptop, and a notebook.

Assert. Prove. Explain.

When writing a paragraph or essay for AP English, the fundamentals lie in A.P.E.

Assert

To assert means to make a claim. Each paragraph should begin with an arguable, defensible claim. This claim serves as your topic sentence and drives the entirety of your paragraph. Once you get into writing full essays, this claim should build on a line of reasoning as well.

Prove

Your claim cannot be stated and left alone. You must then prove the assertion, and proof in AP[®] English courses comes from the text. Use quotes when the text is in front of you, concrete and specific details when it is not. Be specific and choose only the best evidence that proves your assertion.

Explain

Because your proof comes from an outside text, we need the paragraph to return to your persuasive objective. You must now explain how the textual evidence proves your assertion. This can also be called the *so what* portion of the paragraph. You've made claim, but you why does it matter?



A

Assert.



A

Assert.



P

Prove.



P

Prove.



E

Explain.



E

Explain.





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