**How to attack an AP Language Multiple Choice test**

1. Read the background information concerning the text.

2. Annotate the question

3. Read closely and annotate the passage.

4. Box or circle words you do not know.

5. Underline rhetorical strategies or ideas.

6. Note in the margins – irony, sarcasm, paradox, etc…

7. Read before the lines given in a question or read beyond those lines if necessary to

answer the question.

8. Underline the thesis statement.

9. Underline the topic sentence of each body paragraph.

10. Work a SOAPSTONE to determine subject, occasion, audience, purpose, speaker, and tone.

11. Work a DIDLS – Diction, imagery, detail, language, and syntax.

12. Bracket line numbers from the question in the text before reading the passage so you can pay

attention to those lines as you read. (do not attempt to answer the question as you read)

13. If the question includes Roman numerals, do the following:

Ignore the A B C choices at first.

Then, look only at the Roman numeral answers and decide which one, two, or three are correct.

Then look for an answer that corresponds.

14. If you see the words *best*, *except*, or *primarily*, underline them.

Make sure you are clear about what the question is asking.

15. After you have read the stem, try to answer the question in your own words first,

then read answer A and do one of three things: Put an X by it if it is definitely wrong, a “?”

if you are unsure of its validity, and a “ “ if you like it as an answer.

Now go back and look at question marks you have written.

Is there a term, phrase, or clause that particularly rules them out?

If so, put an X by the word or phrase or clause.

If you now see just one check, go with that answer. If you have more than one check, repeat

the word, phrase, or clause process.