

Summer Reading 2019

English II Honors - AP Seminar

Welcome to AP Seminar!

AP Seminar can be described as “a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives” (College Board). What does this mean for you as a student? How is this different than other AP Courses? The answer: a challenging, yet gratifying, year of critical thinking, analysis, research, and collaboration that will help you gain confidence with your own voice in writing and speaking! The performance tasks as part of your AP test will require you to analyze author’s arguments through a variety of perspectives, examine and problem solve real-world issues, and develop and defend your own credible arguments, both individually and collaboratively in the form of written research papers and oral presentations.

To prepare you for these rigorous assessments, you will have two tasks for your summer assignment. These include annotations of our reading selection, and weekly journal assignments to submit on Google Classroom by the assigned due dates. The work you do for this assignment will be used to prepare for a *socratic seminar* early in the school year. To get started, join our Google Classroom with the code below and read the instructions for the assignment on the following pages.

Google Classroom Code: gimdrxk

Please contact me, Ms. Burke, at jburke@roxbury.org with any questions!

Task 1: *Think Like a Freak* Annotations

(50 points)

For your summer reading assignment this year, you will be reading *Think Like a Freak* by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. According to Harper Collins' review, "With their trademark blend of captivating storytelling and unconventional analysis, they take us inside their thought process and teach us all to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally – to think, that is, like a freak".

As you will need to write in *Think Like a Freak*, it should be purchased. You can get it new in paperback, or you can purchase used copies for less on Amazon.com.

Use the rubric and guidelines below to inform your annotation process. I will be collecting your books in the beginning of the school year to assess your annotations for a potential 50 points.

[Annotation Rubric and Guidelines](#) (Appendix 1)

Task 2: *Think Like a Freak* Journal Entries

(20 points x 3)

Think Like a Freak has 9 chapters, and each week throughout the summer, a chapter of the reading and journal response will be due. Posted on the AP Seminar Summer Reading classroom, you will find the journal entry templates for each chapter. Each template consists of the following requirements:

1. Identify the author's central argument, main idea, or thesis.

- This should be a concise, 1-2 sentences.

2. Explain the author's line of reasoning.

- Do this by identifying individual claims (main points supporting the thesis) used to articulate the argument and how the claims are connected or build upon each other. *Essentially, what points support the thesis and how are they organized.*

- This should be 1-2 paragraphs.

3. Synthesize the author's argument with the provided supplemental material.

- To *synthesize* means to combine or meld ideas together. Demonstrate your critical thinking about the claims from the chapter by Levitt and Dubner and the supplemental material provided on Classroom for each week's assigned reading by writing a consideration of their comparable or contrasting ideas on a shared topic.

- Your responses should include specific information (quotes and/or paraphrasing) from both sources, and should be a well thought-out piece of your own critical thinking!

- This should be 1-2 paragraphs.

[Journal Rubric and Samples](#) (Appendix 2)

You will be graded for THREE randomly selected journal responses. You will not know which entries will be graded, so you must complete them all. The due dates for each entry are posted below.

Assignment	Due Date (Sundays in Summer)
Chapter 1; Journal 1	7/7
Chapter 2; Journal 2	7/14
Chapter 3; Journal 3	7/21
Chapter 4; Journal 4	7/28
Chapter 5; Journal 5	8/4
Chapter 6; Journal 6	8/11
Chapter 7; Journal 7	8/18
Chapter 8; Journal 8	8/25
Chapter 9; Journal 9	9/1

