

Welcome to AP Seminar!

*“Solving a problem is hard enough; it gets that much harder if you’ve decided beforehand it can’t be done”
(Levitt & Dubner 64)*

I am so very excited to work with you next year in what I feel is the most beneficial college ready course. As you can see from the comments below, previous students have found great reward in taking this course.

Some encouraging comments from this year’s AP Seminar Students:

“Seminar this year has been incredibly informational and stands as one of the most helpful classes I’ve ever taken.”

“Despite what people say seminar is worth the amount of time you have to dedicate to it.”

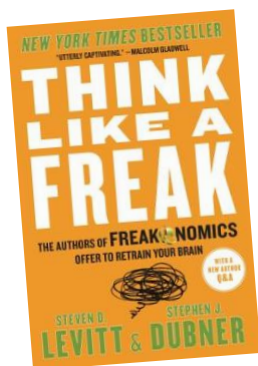
“Overall, AP seminar has made me a more intelligent person and improved my writing, speech giving, and collaborative abilities.”

“Be ready to work but also be ready to reap the rewards at the end. It is worth it.”

“It will be a great way to go into college more prepared for the rigor and higher-level difficulty of the courses.”

“everything in seminar is possible”

“as long as you stay consistent and do not fall behind in work it is not hard to keep a good grade and do well on your presentations and papers.”



*This college-level course is all about solving the world’s problems — seriously! However, in order to solve the world’s problems, one must first learn to **think like a freak**. Lucky for you, the book you’re about to read is a handy how-to guide. It is a small book, but it has big ideas. If you internalize the rules surrounding thinking like a freak, you’re well on your way to success in AP Seminar!*

The Assignment *I do not want to take up your summer with reading, but I find value in this book in training your mind to look outside the box and begin looking at the world from different perspectives, which is necessary in carrying out research.*

*As we will begin the year working with this text, your assignment is to start by reading the first five chapters of [Think Like a Freak](#) and respond to the following questions with a comprehensive answer that includes details from the book (prove you read and understand it). We will complete the book together the first few weeks of school and refer back to it periodically throughout the year. As previous students will tell you, time management is one of the most valuable skills you’ll need to develop to be successful in AP Seminar. **Be ready to discuss!***

Chapter 1

1. Where do people get their biases and “knowledge”? How do our interactions with family and friends reinforce our biases and “knowledge”?
2. People often do not want to challenge others’ ideas, even if they have evidence that the ideas are incorrect, because it would be uncomfortable. Americans, more than others, tend to support the notion that people can have their own ideas. Why do you think this is the case?

Chapter 2

1. Why is it difficult for people to say, “I don’t know?” What is one’s moral compass and how can it get in the way of free thinking?

Chapter 3

1. Explain why reframing the question can help you solve a problem.

Chapter 4

1. Explain why problems are more likely to be resolved when causes, not symptoms, are addressed.

Chapter 5

1. Explain why thinking small is thinking like a freak and is advantageous over thinking big.