

# Welcome to AP Seminar Informational Session

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## **What is AP Seminar?**

**“AP Seminar is an interdisciplinary course that encourages students to demonstrate critical thinking, collaboration, and academic research skills on topics of the student's choosing. To accommodate the wide range of student topics, typical college course equivalents include interdisciplinary or general elective courses.”**



# What will the course content consist of? 5 Big Ideas

## [Big Idea 1: Question and Explore](#)

You'll learn about the first step of doing research: inquiry and investigation.

You'll practice:

- Identifying a problem or issue and developing a question about it
- Finding and organizing the information you need to **answer the question**
- **Evaluating the sources of information you use**
- **Looking at the problem or issue from different perspectives**



# Big idea 2

## Big Idea 2: Understand and Analyze

You'll learn to read, comprehend, and explain a perspective or argument.

You'll practice:

- Reading critically for a purpose
- Explaining and analyzing the line of reasoning of an argument
- Evaluating the evidence an author uses to support their argument
- Assessing potential resolutions, conclusions, or solutions raised by an argument



# Big idea 3

## [Big Idea 3: Evaluate Multiple Perspectives](#)

You'll learn to compare and contrast different perspectives on an issue, idea, or problem so you can understand its complexity.

You'll practice:

- Identifying, comparing, and interpreting different perspectives on, or arguments about, an issue
- Evaluating objections, implications, and limitations of different perspectives or arguments



# Big Idea 4

## Big Idea 4: Synthesize Ideas

You'll learn to take information you've gathered, analyzed, and evaluated and use it to form your own conclusions and build your own argument.

You'll practice:

- Formulating a well-reasoned argument
- Using data and information from various sources to develop and support an argument
- Linking evidence to claims
- Offering resolutions, conclusions, or solutions based on evidence



# Big Idea 5

## [Big Idea 5: Team, Transform, and Transmit](#)

You'll learn to work alone and in a group to communicate your ideas to an audience.

You'll practice:

- Planning, producing, and presenting an argument while considering audience, context, and purpose
- Communicating information through appropriate media
- Using effective techniques to engage an audience
- Contributing your own work to a group project



# What are the assessments for AP Seminar?

The Goal will be for you to complete 3 types of Assessments for AP seminar.

1. 2 Performance Tasks
2. End of Course exam





# Performance Task 1 (PT1)

## Team Project and Presentation

20% of Score

Work in teams of 3–5 to identify, investigate, analyze, and evaluate an academic or real-world problem, question, or issue. Your team will design and/or consider options, alternatives, or solutions and develop a multimedia presentation to communicate your conclusion or recommendations. The team project and presentation will be evaluated based on the following components:

- Individual research report (1,200 words): scored by College Board
- Team multimedia presentation and defense (8–10 minutes): scored by your teacher



# End of Course Exam

## End-of-Course Exam

4 questions 2hrs 45% of Score

During the AP Exam administration window, you will take a two-hour exam. The exam consists of four questions (three short-answer questions and one essay question). The exam will be scored by College Board–trained readers, similar to other AP Exams.

- 3 short-answer questions: These questions will be based on a single source. You'll be asked to explain and analyze an argument.
- 1 essay question: This question will be based on 4 different sources, which give different perspectives on 1 theme. You'll be asked to synthesize information and create an evidence-based argument.



# Performance Task 2 (PT2)

## Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation

35% of Score

College Board will provide stimulus material (texts) representing a range of perspectives focused on a single theme or topic. You will use these texts to identify a research question of your own; research, analyze, evaluate, and select evidence to develop a written argument of your own that you will present; and then you will defend your conclusion. The individual research-based essay and presentation will be evaluated based on the following components:

- Individual written argument (2,000 words): scored by College Board
- Individual multimedia presentation (6–8 minutes): scored by your teacher
- Oral defense (2 questions from the teacher): scored by your teacher



# An example of an activity in AP seminar

## Understanding the “Slippery Slope Argument”

### Definition:

“In a slippery slope argument, **a course of action is rejected because, with little or no evidence, one insists that it will lead to a chain reaction resulting in an undesirable end or ends.**”

### An Example

Direct TV Roadside Ditch commercial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpw/h1vI054>



# The concept of Lenses and Perspectives

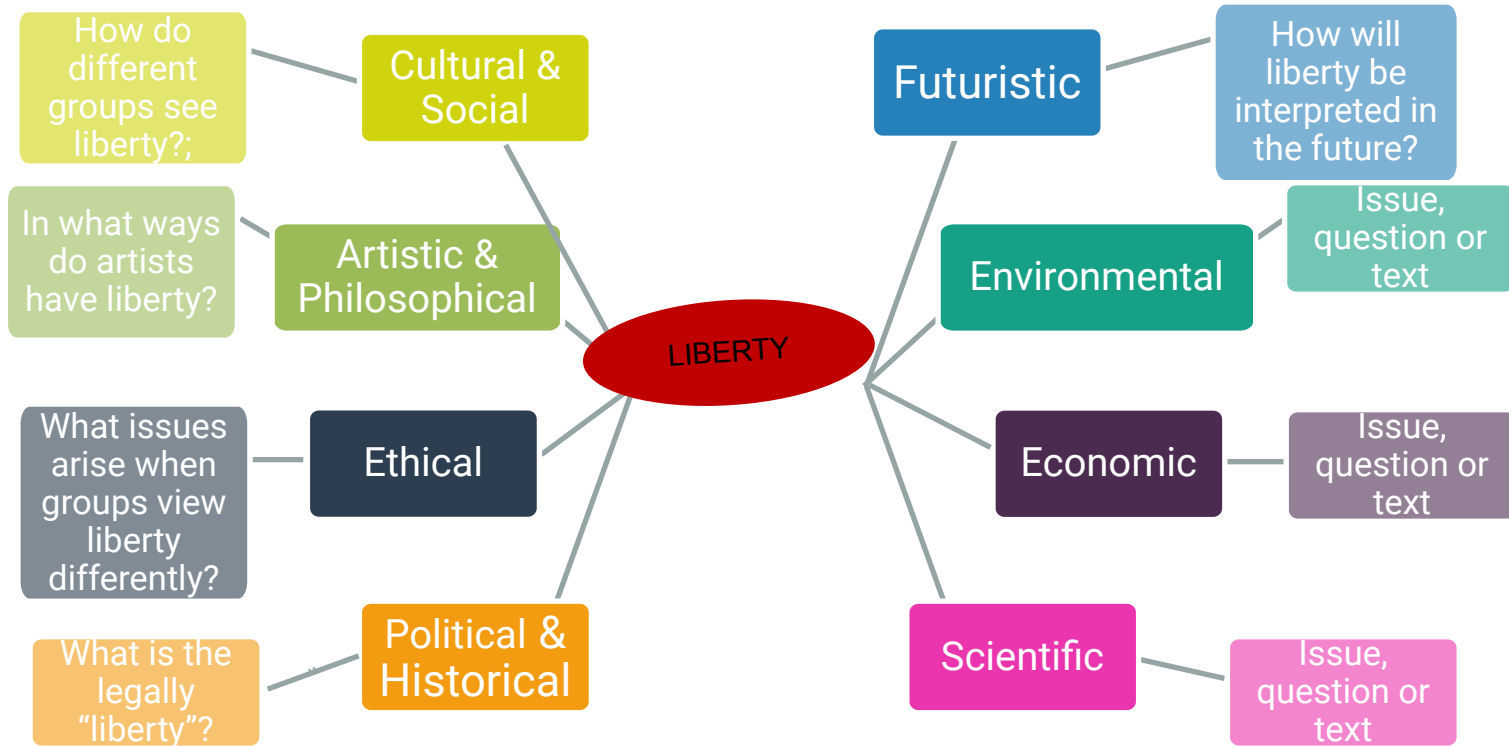
Lens: **Filter through which an issue or topic is considered or examined.**

Perspective: A point of view conveyed through an argument.

The attached link will give you an example of a “lens”

The second link will focus on “engagement and AP seminar”

# Using Disciplinary Lenses to Investigate a Theme





# Important Point about AP Seminar

## “Very Important

As the AP Program engages students in college-level work, the AP Seminar course may include perspectives that could be considered controversial, including references to ethnicity, nationality, religion, politics, race, dialect, sexuality, gender, or class. AP Seminar requires students to have the level of maturity and skill to thoughtfully consider and analyze diverse perspectives. The inclusion of topics, readings, texts, and other source material is not intended as an endorsement by the College Board of the content, ideas, or values expressed in the material.”



## Sources used

1. Direct TV commercial
2. College Board slide (lens)
3. Information on Perspective (adapted from College Board)
4. Big ideas adapted from