

AP SEMINAR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Think Like a Freak by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Both assignments must be submitted on the first day of class. Email lindsey.hiller@richlandone.org with any questions.

PART I:

Read *Think Like a Freak* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner and complete the following assignments professionally, using academic language and correct grammar and punctuation. You may type or handwrite your responses, but handwritten responses must be completed neatly and legibly. (45 pts total)

1. **During reading**, paraphrase (in your own words) three to five interesting points from each chapter. (18 points)
2. **After reading** the book, complete the following:
 - a. Identify any issue that interests you; this issue does not have to be one mentioned in the book. (1 point)
 - b. Ask **ten different questions** about the issue. (Reference Chapter 3 for advice on asking questions differently.) (10 points)
 - c. Brainstorm **three different possibilities for what the root** of the problem could be. (Reference Chapter 4 for advice on getting to the root of an issue.) These possible roots can be from your brain or proposed by someone else. If proposed by someone else, include the source. (6 points)
 - d. Think like a child (per Chapter 5) and **generate five potential solutions** for this issue. You are welcome to use solutions that have already been proposed if you are aware of them from news editorials, organizations, proposed legislation, etc. If you list a solution that has already been proposed, include the source. (10 points)

PART II: (34 pts total)

In order to generate research questions and ensure accuracy in your arguments, you will need to be knowledgeable about current local, national, and international issues; therefore, you need to establish a routine of checking the news daily. There are countless options for obtaining news, so explore them and find which is best for you (following news Twitter accounts, following an accurate news blog, watching the TV news, reading the newspaper, using an app...).

1. Write down the **method by which you will be checking the news**. Be specific- if you are following a news station on Twitter, you need to write which station. (2 pts)
2. Choose **four recent articles that interest** you and record the following:
 - a. Title of article, author, and date published (should be published within the last few months)
 - b. Brief synopsis of the article (3-5 sentences) (4 pts)
 - c. Brief description as to why this interests you (**3-5 sentences**). Do not just say “because it is interesting.” *Why is it interesting? Does it align with a particular interest of yours? Does it spark further questions you would want to explore? Does it elicit a specific emotion?* (4 pts)