AP Seminar Summer 2024 Assignment

Please read this document carefully, as you'll find information about the course and summer assignment directions.

About AP Seminar

AP Seminar encourages students to explore real-world topics from multiple perspectives, understand and analyze a variety of texts, and craft evidence-based essays for an academic audience. Major assignments include some of the following:

- Individual research report (1,200 words)
- Team multimedia presentation & oral defense (8-10 min)
- Individual written argument (2,000 words)
- Individual multimedia presentation & oral defense (6-8 min)
- End-of-course exam (2 hrs)

About the Summer Assignment

The summer assignment is designed to 1) give you an idea of what the course is about and 2) provide your teacher with an estimate of your reading and writing level. Both assignments are due the first week of school and will be graded for content and completeness.

Your printed responses must be submitted to your AP Seminar teacher during the first week of school to receive full credit for this assignment. If you have any questions, please email Dr. Scherff (lscherff@communityschoolnaples.org).

Entering & Analyzing an Ongoing Debate

You will select an ongoing debate from Procon.org, read and analyze the various perspectives, and answer the questions below. Please follow the sample provided to see how to formulate your answers.

Visit ProCon. You can find the link at https://www.procon.org/.

Scroll through the page to find the debate you're interested in analyzing. You might have to scroll around and spend some time before deciding on which debate to enter.

After you select your debate, read the 3 Pro and 3 Con summaries contained within the debate. The debate has several authors who offer their unique perspectives on the topic. (See below for a sample image) On a blank document, answer: What is the debate about? Provide the context/background or questions regarding this debate (25-50 words).
**Should Zoos Exist?**

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<tr>
<th>Pro 1</th>
<th>Con 1</th>
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<td><strong>Zoos educate the public about animals and conservation efforts.</strong> &lt;br&gt;As of Apr. 2021, there are 241 accredited zoos in the United States. The zoos attract over 181 million visitors annually, which is more than the approximately 131 million yearly spectators of the NFL, NBA, NHL, and MLB combined. [8][9][10][11][12]</td>
<td><strong>Zoos don't educate the public enough to justify keeping animals captive.</strong> &lt;br&gt;A review published in Animal Studies Repository concluded, &quot;to date there is no compelling or even particularly suggestive evidence for the claim that zoos and aquariums promote attitude change, education, and interest in conservation in visitors.&quot; Even a study widely cited to justify the argument that zoos educate the public stated, &quot;there was no overall statistically significant change in understanding [of ecological concepts] seen&quot; because visitors know a lot about ecology before going to the zoo. [13][14][15][16][17]</td>
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<td>According to a study of 26 zoos worldwide published in Conservation Biology, visitors to zoos increased their knowledge of biodiversity and specific individual actions to protect biodiversity. [11]</td>
<td>TV shows such as Planet Earth bring wild animals into living rooms, allowing</td>
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| Robin Ganzert, PhD, President and CEO of American Humane, stated, "zoos provide people, especially impressionable children, with the opportunity to see these remarkable animals up close. People won't protect what they don't love, and they can't love what they don't know. No matter how closely programs like Planet Earth depict animals, nothing will match the bond of seeing them in real life. Just look at a child's eyes at the zoo when he or she encounters a tiger or similarly majestic animal."

**Read the Original Text(s).** Within each short article are links to the full articles as hyperlinks so you can read them. From your reading of the summaries, select ONE Pro and ONE Con source article to read in full. NOTE: If links are not provided, use the citation information to do a Google Search to locate the article.

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**Open-ended responses.** On the same document you started, answer the following questions for each article you read: 1. What arguments are presented by this author? (50-75 words per article) 2. What evidence does the author present? What evidence does this author use to support his/her perspective? Do you think this use of evidence is credible and sufficient? Why or why not? (50-75 words per article).

Bring a printed copy of your work to class during the first week of school.

*Please follow the example on the next page to type your responses (double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman).*