

## AP Seminar Summer Project

Welcome to AP Seminar, the first course in the AP Capstone Diploma program! I am proud of you for embarking on this journey and excited to guide you along the way. This course requires hard work, but it will be so rewarding. Let's get started.

### Overview from College Board

In this course, you'll learn to consider an issue from multiple perspectives, identify credible sources, evaluate strengths and weaknesses of arguments, and make logical, evidence-based recommendations. You'll investigate a variety of topics through various viewpoints of your choice.

During the course, you'll complete a team project, compose individual papers and presentations, and take a written end-of-course AP exam in which you analyze and create sophisticated arguments. These components contribute to the overall AP Seminar score.

### Preparation

I want you to prepare for this course in three ways:

1. **Inquiry-based thinking.** You will sharpen your skills in creating research questions, understanding arguments, and joining arguments. Purchase a copy of Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers: The Story of Success*. Read it and make annotations about Gladwell's process for exploring his topic or question. For example, pay attention to how he introduces a problem, question, or idea. How does he get the reader interested? How does he go about answering the question or exploring the idea? How does he come to his conclusions or solutions? These types of questions will help you explore Gladwell's process.
2. **Awareness of current events.** You will become a consumer of current information and perspectives. Check out the link below to *The New York Times* Summer Reading Contest. You can actually enter the contest if you'd like - it would be so cool to say you've been published in the *NYT* as a freshman in high school - or you can save all entries in a Google Doc that you will share with me by August 19. Do not do the video option. Complete at least SIX responses between June 7 and August 16.
  - a. [Summer Reading Contest Link](#)
  - b. You do not have to have a paid subscription. Articles from the [NYT Learning Network](#) are free.
3. **Scholarly Research**(THIS IS RECOMMENDED BUT OPTIONAL!! YOU MUST COMPLETE #'s 1-2 ABOVE). You will use databases to access scholarly resources to conduct sound research.
  - a. Go to your Classlink dashboard.
  - b. Tennessee Electronic Library - All Resources - Search "Opposing Viewpoints." If prompted, select the blue bar, "Use this Resource." Select, "Browse Issues" in the top menu bar. Select an issue that interests you.
  - c. Scroll down to the gray box ("On This Page") that shows what types of texts are written about this topic. Read any two full-text articles and/or graphs for your issue. One of the two articles should be from the *Academic Journal* section.

Remember to TRULY READ the articles. In this course, you are not just reading for comprehension, but for true understanding, thinking about the information, making connections, considering implications, etc. These are the things that separate true scholars from just the “smart students.”

- d. Create an MLA works cited entry for the two articles in the same Google Doc used for the New York Times reading.
- e. For the regular article (not from the academic journal section), type a response in the same Google Doc that answers the following questions:
  - i. What is the author’s main idea?
  - ii. What is the author’s line of reasoning? (What are the author’s claims/reasons?)
  - iii. Do you believe the author and evidence are credible and reliable? Why or why not?
  - iv. Evaluate the article’s effectiveness. Is it convincing? Why or why not?
- f. For the academic journal, type a response in the same Google Doc to include the following:
  - i. How does this article look different from informational articles you typically read? Another way to answer this question, is to consider how the article is structured differently.
  - ii. What is hard about reading this article?
  - iii. Who would want or need to read an article like this?

**\*These assignments must be completed by August 19th, but I strongly encourage you to work on this in small increments throughout the summer. You may include your NYT responses and TEL entries in the same Google Doc. Just make sure you title each section\***

Again, I’m so pumped about the coming year. I am 100% committed to making this class the best it can be. Don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Just email me at [jeff.myers@myplace.wcs.edu](mailto:jeff.myers@myplace.wcs.edu). I can’t wait to spend the 2024-2025 school year with you. It’s going to be great.

HAVE AN AMAZING SUMMER!

Mr. Myers  
English I and AP Seminar