

St. George's Episcopal School  
Summer Reading for Students Entering English 10: AP Seminar

Please understand that the degree to which you take your summer reading seriously is the first evidence you will present to me of how seriously you intend to take the class as a whole. AP Seminar is a demanding class involving analytical reading and critical thinking, and I expect to see strong evidence of both in the way you approach your reading.

There is no written assignment for you to complete over the summer, but since we will be using these books as a starting point for our studies, you do need to know your chosen book well. A cursory reading or vague memory will not suffice. I suggest that you annotate, create sketchnotes<sup>1</sup>, or keep a dialectical journal<sup>2</sup> as you read. While this is not required and will not be graded, it will facilitate your more complete engagement and memory of the book you choose. Please finish reading your books by the first day of school.

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*English 10: AP Seminar students are required to read **two** texts:*  
***Animal Farm* by George Orwell**  
***Think Like a Freak* by Steven D. Livett and Stephen J. Dubner**

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<sup>1</sup>**Sketchnotes** are a form of visual notetaking that allow you to use words, pictures, and spacial orientation on the page to show connections among author claims, author purpose, evidence, commentary, intended audience, etc. You don't have to be a great artist to create helpful sketchnotes! [This video](#) introduces the idea and links to a blog with more details if you want to give this technique a try. (There are lots of examples online to look at.)

<sup>2</sup>A **dialectical journal** is a reading journal kept in a two-column format. In one column, you quote passages that seem significant (noting the page number), and in the other, you record your thoughts about that passage. What does it make you think about? What does it reveal about the author's purpose or central argument? How does it help distill or add complexity to the overall exploration of the text? Does it contain a particular technique, strategy, or logical connection? This dialectical journal lets you think, critique, question, summarize, remember, clarify, and process your reading—it's a unique conversation between you and the text.