

## AP Seminar Topic Exploration

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Your summer work for AP Seminar is to explore current events and new developments in the world of academia. Having an understanding of a wide variety of topics will help jumpstart our year. Take this opportunity to really consider what issues you want to explore in this class. We have significant latitude in what topics we are permitted to study, and I want you to come to class ready to help me select the problems in the world that you are most interested in solving.

**Step 1:** You will choose a total of three (3) media releases to read and analyze. Use these websites and select the three articles that most appeal to you.

- <https://www.eurekaalert.org>
- <https://newatlas.com>
- <https://www.nature.com>
- <https://www.newscientist.com>
- <https://www.psychnewsdaily.com/category/psychology-news/>
- <https://www.psypost.org>
- <https://www.science.org>
- <https://www.sciencenews.org>
- <https://www.scimex.org>
- <https://www.technologynetworks.com>

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**Step 2:** Fill out the analysis forms for the articles you selected, responding to these questions in the tables I provide at the end of this document.

Analysis Questions (shortened versions of these questions are included in the tables below):

1. What site did you use? Copy and paste the link.
2. What is the name of the news/layperson article? Copy and paste the title.
3. What is the function of the article? I.e. Which of the following does the article do: introduce a problem, explore a solution, contradict a previously held scientific theory, or propose a new theory to explain a pre-existing problem?
4. What is the related problem, the impact of that problem, and a possible solution to that problem? Write two or more sentences about this. (All of these may be contained within the article, or you may have to think of some of them on your own.)
  - a. Problem: What real-world problem does the article introduce or make you think about?
  - b. Impact: Why does that problem matter? Who or what does it hurt? What does it cost? Etc.
  - c. Possible solution: What is a way that this problem could possibly be solved?
5. What numbers or types of numbers are related to exploring this topic? (For example, a number type might be “the number of people with cancer,” “gallons of water used per person,” or “amount of money earned.”)
6. What do the numbers show about the issue? How would those numbers serve as proof for issues surrounding this topic?
7. How interested are you in this topic? Very high, high, or medium (Do not choose “not interested”; if you aren’t interested, choose another article.) What interests you about this topic?

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Example: The entries on this table are answers to the analysis questions listed on the previous page. You may want to open the link in the table so that you can see where I found the answers I used.

<b>Entry Number</b>	Example
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://newatlas.com/science/co2-airborne-viruses/">https://newatlas.com/science/co2-airborne-viruses/</a>
<b>Title</b>	Higher CO2 levels mean viruses live longer, infect more
<b>Function</b>	Introduces a problem
<b>Problem, impact, possible solution</b>	Because increased CO2 levels mean that viruses live longer, closed spaces such as schools are prone to infectious outbreaks. Opening windows could decrease the likelihood of the spread of viral disease within closed spaces.
<b>Numbers</b> <b>What the numbers show</b> <b>My interest and explanation</b>	CO2 ranges measured in parts per million, rate of infections, time virus survived How CO2 affects the life of a virus I have high interest in this topic because it seems like a simple solution to a problem we all know about. Many people (students and teachers) get sick at the start of school. Maybe opening a window in the classroom could help decrease that problem and help me not get so many colds at the start of the school year.

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Your name \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Entry Number</b>	1
<b>Link</b>	
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Function</b>	
<b>Problem, impact, possible solution</b>	
<b>Numbers</b> <b>What the numbers show</b> <b>My interest and explanation</b>	

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<b>Entry Number</b>	2
<b>Link</b>	
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Function</b>	
<b>Problem, impact, possible solution</b>	
<b>Numbers</b>	
<b>What the numbers show</b> <b>My interest and explanation</b>	

## AP Seminar Topic Exploration

<b>Entry Number</b>	3
<b>Link</b>	
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Function</b>	
<b>Problem, impact, possible solution</b>	
<b>Numbers</b>	
<b>What the numbers show</b>	
<b>My interest and explanation</b>	