

Dear AP Seminar Student,

Congratulations on your selection into the AP Seminar course! This class is part of the AP Capstone program and is designed to challenge you to think critically, conduct independent research, collaborate with others, and communicate your ideas effectively.

Because of the rigorous nature of this course, your commitment and work ethic are essential for your success. Please read the agreement below and sign to confirm your understanding and willingness to meet the expectations of AP Seminar.

Student Commitment Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. Commitment to Academic Excellence:

I understand that AP Seminar is a college-level course that requires consistent effort, active participation, and academic integrity. I will come prepared to engage thoughtfully in class discussions and assignments.

2. Willingness to Work Hard:

I recognize that success in this course requires time management, independent work, and collaboration. I will meet deadlines, seek help when needed, and challenge myself to improve.

3. Acceptance of the Summer Assignment:

I understand that there is a required summer assignment that must be completed and submitted on time. I will review the assignment instructions and complete it to the best of my ability before the start of the school year.

4. Respect and Responsibility:

I will demonstrate respect for my peers, my teacher, and the classroom environment. I will take responsibility for my learning and behavior throughout the course.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return this form no later than May 28th.

AP Seminar

Summer Assignment 2025

Due Date: August 20th

***All incoming AP Seminar students are invited to attend an ARC session on May 28th in Ms. Marconi-Bowman's room (B213) to answer any questions and to learn more about the course.**

Dear 2025-2026 AP Seminar students,

Welcome to AP Seminar! I am thrilled to have you join me for a semester of intellectual exploration and critical thinking. I am aware that many of you may be feeling quite anxious at this time as new students to AP classes or because you've heard about the rigor associated with AP Seminar from past students. However, don't worry, as I will do everything I can to make it an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The summer assignment is designed to help alleviate stress and build a strong foundation for the rest of the course, as it familiarizes you with key concepts and allows me to gain an understanding of your argumentative skills. Please approach the summer tasks with an open mind and a willingness to improve. While these tasks will be graded formatively, it is important to complete them to a high standard so that I can accurately gauge your current understanding and skill set. Your active participation will enable me to provide tailored instruction and support throughout the course, ensuring a meaningful and productive learning experience for all.

Please be advised that it is necessary to complete all of the tasks outlined here genuinely before our first day of school. If you have any questions about the assignment or the course that require clarification, please send a message to rmarconi@gasd-pa.org so that I can provide guidance to assist your progress. Thank you, and have a wonderful summer break!

Task A: Understand the course and assessment

JUSTIFICATION: Seminar may be a very different course than you are accustomed to. It will be much more interdisciplinary than most of the courses we offer in high school, and it will require you to take a great deal of personal responsibility for the quality and integrity of your work.

Read this to understand the philosophy that drives the design of the course and the procedures that will be used to determine your AP score.

1. [Access the AP Seminar Course and Exam Description](#), and familiarize yourself with the *AP Seminar Course Description*, *AP Seminar Curricular Requirements*, *AP Seminar Curriculum Framework*, *the five Big Ideas and assessments*, *AP Capstone Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)*, and *AP Seminar Assessment Overview*. We will spend a significant amount of time at the beginning of the semester going over what each assessment entails, but if you pre-read what is expected you will feel less overwhelmed at the start of the semester. There are three overarching assessments that make up your AP Seminar score:

a. Performance Task 1

i. Individual Research Report (**IRR**) + Team Multimedia Presentation (**TMP**)

b. Performance Task 2

i. Individual Written Argument (**IWA**) + Individual Multimedia Presentation (**IMP**)

c. End-of-Course Exam (EOC)

i. EOC Part A

ii. EOC Part B

Summer Assignment

Task A: Read [“They Say, I Say”](#). This book will introduce you and prepare you for academic writing. It is vital that you **take notes** as you read and be prepared to take a **quiz** on the book the first week of the semester. The pdf version that I linked is free. If you would prefer a hard copy, you can find it on Amazon.

Task B: Argument Presentation

Before moving forward, if you have never watched [“How to Avoid Death by PowerPoint”](#), watch it before creating your Google Slideshow.

The following seven sources present multiple perspectives on the same issue or topic. Read the sources carefully, focusing on both **the thematic connection** between them and **the different perspectives** each represents. Then, create a logically organized argument that presents **your own perspective** on the theme you identified. You must incorporate **at least four of the sources** provided, as well as **one**

additional source (either another source from this list or an outside source). You may also draw on your own knowledge or experience.

Finally, you will create a **5-6 minute** Google slideshow to aid in the presentation you will give to the class **during the first week of class**. The slide show must **clearly state an argument** that presents your own perspective; this can be a problem/solution format. You must explicitly use evidence from the sources provided (properly citing the sources using MLA format - **reminder: a minimum of 4 sources from the list + 1 other**) your presentation should include **images** to support your argument. Please use notecards to deliver your presentation, as you should not read off the screen.

1. *Hamilton: An American Musical* (if you have Disney+ it is on there. If not, you can watch it on Youtube [here](#))
2. [Factors That Drive Youth Specialization](#)
3. [Ambition in the Workplace](#)
4. [Can You Be Happy and Ambitious at the Same Time](#)
5. [Gender and Politics](#)
6. [Daedalus and Icarus](#)
7. [Why the Children of Immigrants Are the Ones Getting Ahead in America](#)

Planning: Complete the table below after reading each source.

Source (Author and Title of Source)	Perspective/Argument:	They Say/I Say Analysis

Checklist to meet all required tasks:

- Identify the theme with an explanation of what connects the sources
- Identify perspectives within the theme (expressed through an argument)
- Add your voice/perspective to create an argument on the identified topic
- Incorporate five sources to support the discussion of your argument
- Include counterarguments and a rebuttal
- Provide a solution for the issue

Slide Show Format

1. Context/Background of Topic
2. Research Question
3. Your Argument
4. Reasons & Evidence
 - Be sure to make stakeholders and perspectives evident
5. Counterargument & Rebuttal
6. Evaluation of Potential Solutions
 - Be sure to include the pros and cons of each
7. YOUR Proposed Solution
8. Limitations of Solution and Rebuttal
9. Implications for the future
10. Conclusion
11. References Page (MLA Format - use this [Purdue Owl](#) resource)

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Vocabulary to Know:

Claim: a statement made about an issue that asserts a perspective

Line of Reasoning: arrangements of claims and evidence that lead to a conclusion

Perspective: a point of view conveyed through an argument

Counterargument: an opposing perspective, idea, or theory supported by evidence

Rebuttal: contradicting an opposing perspective by providing alternate, more convincing evidence

Research Question: a question your essay/presentation will attempt to answer, often addressing an issue or problem (To what extent..., How..., Should...)

Suggested Approach for Prewriting/Outline:

Introduction:

- Context of the issue and its significance
- Research question
- Your thesis statement

Claim 1:

Sources:

Specific Evidence:

Commentary (synthesize source arguments and tie to thesis)

Claim 2:

Sources:

Specific Evidence:

Commentary (synthesize source arguments and tie to thesis)

Claim 3:

Sources:

Specific Evidence:

Commentary (synthesize source arguments and tie to thesis)

****You might have more than three claims****

Solution (synthesize claims and tie back closely to the research question and thesis.)

Summer Assignment Rubric

Row	Skill Category	Scoring Criteria	Points
1	Understanding and Thematic Connection	The presentation clearly identifies a central theme that connects the provided sources and demonstrates a nuanced understanding of that theme. It acknowledges multiple perspectives.	/6
2	Argument Development	The argument is clearly articulated and logically organized. It is relevant, specific, and demonstrates depth of thought. If using a problem/solution format, both elements are fully developed.	/6
3	Use of Evidence	At least 4 sources from the list and 1 additional source are integrated smoothly and effectively. Evidence is relevant and strengthens the argument. Sources are cited correctly using MLA format.	/6
4	Visual Design	The Google slideshow enhances the presentation with purposeful design, clear organization, and images that support the argument. Slides are not cluttered with text.	/6
5	Oral Presentation Delivery	Presenter uses notecards (not the screen), speaks clearly, makes eye contact, and demonstrates preparation and confidence. Presentation is within the 5–6 minute time frame.	/6
6	Engagement and Originality	Presentation reflects original thinking and attempts to engage the audience (through hook, pacing, visuals, rhetorical questions, etc.).	/5

Final Score: /35

Note: This rubric is based on the structure and expectations of the AP Seminar Individual Multimedia Presentation. Aim for depth, clarity, and personal insight.

