Summer Assignments

AP Research Students
Episcopal Collegiate School

Required: Read: *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What you Don't Know*, by Adam Grant. ISBN: 978-1984878106

From the author's website:

Intelligence is usually seen as the ability to think and learn, but in a rapidly changing world, there's another set of cognitive skills that might matter more: the ability to rethink and unlearn. In our daily lives, too many of us favor the comfort of conviction over the discomfort of doubt. We listen to opinions that make us feel good, instead of ideas that make us think hard. We see disagreement as a threat to our egos, rather than an opportunity to learn. We surround ourselves with people who agree with our conclusions, when we should be gravitating toward those who challenge our thought process. The result is that our beliefs get brittle long before our bones. Intelligence is no cure, and it can even be a curse: there's evidence that being good at thinking can make us worse at rethinking. The brighter we are, the blinder to our own limitations we can become.

This text will help students understand what it is that we will be doing in AP Research. We will start the year with this text, in a graded discussion of it and I will collect chapter summaries and individual reflections. Pay particular attention to the Part I: Individual Rethinking, and to Part II: Interpersonal Rethinking. The other sections are important, but secondary to what we'll do as we begin the year.

Best,
Dr. Lien

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me and I will get back to you as soon as you can.
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