



Mount Pleasant Central School District
AP Seminar, Capstone
Department Philosophy

How do we construct meaningful arguments and evaluate the world through multiple perspectives? In this class, students will explore complex issues, analyze diverse viewpoints, and develop evidence-based arguments through research and collaboration. Our main goal is to strengthen critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills while fostering curiosity and intellectual independence. Assessment will primarily be based on performance tasks, written reports, and oral presentations following the AP Capstone framework.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
Unit 1: Introduction to Inquiry and the QUEST Framework	September	- Course overview, academic integrity, overview of College Board's QUEST (Question, Understand, Evaluate, Synthesize, Team/Transform) model	- Inquiry, credibility, plagiarism, perspective, bias, reliability	College Board: Big Idea 1 (Question and Explore)	- Identifying issues and perspectives; - Formulating research questions; - Distinguishing between fact and opinion	- Inquiry begins with curiosity and deep questioning; - scholarly conversation is ongoing and dynamic	- Diagnostic writing on a local/global issue; - baseline presentation; - reflection on inquiry process
Unit 2: Evaluating Sources and Arguments	October	- Understanding argument structure, author's claims, evidence, and reasoning	- Claim, evidence, reasoning, line of reasoning, fallacy, counterargument	Big Idea 2 (Understand and Analyze Arguments)	- Analyzing claims and evidence; - Evaluating source credibility; - Annotating and summarizing arguments	Not all arguments are equal—credibility and reasoning determine strength	Source evaluation essay; - rhetorical analysis of a short article; - Socratic seminar
Unit 2: Performance Task 1 – Team Multimedia	November	- Team-based research around a shared issue; individual exploration of one lens; synthesis	- Lens, context, team dynamics, multimedia, stakeholder, global issue	Big Idea 2 (Understand and Analyze Arguments) Big Idea 3 (Evaluate	- Collaborating effectively; Researching independently; Writing academic	Complex problems require interdisciplinary collaboration	- IRR draft and final submission; - Team presentation with reflection

Educating Each Student Today for Endless Possibilities Tomorrow

Mount Pleasant Central School District
AP Seminar, Capstone
Department Philosophy



How do we construct meaningful arguments and evaluate the world through multiple perspectives? In this class, students will explore complex issues, analyze diverse viewpoints, and develop evidence-based arguments through research and collaboration. Our main goal is to strengthen critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills while fostering curiosity and intellectual independence. Assessment will primarily be based on performance tasks, written reports, and oral presentations following the AP Capstone framework.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
Presentation and Individual Research Report		of perspectives		Multiple Perspectives)	reports		
Unit 4: Building and Communicating an Argument	December	- Writing arguments, incorporating sources, applying logic	Thesis, synthesis, counterclaim, concession, refutation, context	Big Idea 3 (Evaluate Multiple Perspectives)	- Synthesizing sources; - Constructing arguments; - Writing analytical paragraphs	Arguments are strengthened by addressing multiple perspectives	Written argument using 3–5 sources; peer feedback workshop; revision portfolio
Unit 5: Performance Task 2 – Individual Written Argument and Individual Multimedia Presentation	Jan-March	- Independent research based on a stimulus packet; developing and defending an original argument	- Stimulus, thematic connection, implication, limitation, consequence	College Board: Big Idea 1 (Question and Explore)	- Developing an argument; - Conducting independent research; - Presenting with visuals	Strong arguments balance evidence, reasoning, and creativity	Annotated bibliography; IWA draft; multimedia presentation and oral defense

Educating Each Student Today for Endless Possibilities Tomorrow



Mount Pleasant Central School District
AP Seminar, Capstone
Department Philosophy

How do we construct meaningful arguments and evaluate the world through multiple perspectives? In this class, students will explore complex issues, analyze diverse viewpoints, and develop evidence-based arguments through research and collaboration. Our main goal is to strengthen critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills while fostering curiosity and intellectual independence. Assessment will primarily be based on performance tasks, written reports, and oral presentations following the AP Capstone framework.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
Unit 6: Practice for End-of-Course Exam	April	- Practice Part A (short analysis) and Part B (argument essay)	- Rhetorical situation, tone, perspective, bias, synthesis	AP Seminar Exam Rubrics (Parts A & B)	- Time management; - Critical reading; - Constructing on-demand arguments	Written communication demonstrates synthesis and reasoning	Mock exam with feedback; timed writing; group analysis practice
Unit 7: Reflection and Extension	May-June	- Reflecting on growth, connecting Seminar to Research and beyond	- Metacognition, reflection, transfer, scholarly voice	QUEST Reflection Component	- Self-assessment; - Academic reflection; - Oral articulation of growth	Inquiry and argumentation extend beyond the classroom	Reflective essay; final presentation; portfolio submission