

AP Seminar: Summer Assignment 2026

SUMMER INQUIRY GALLERY

Introduction: One of the hardest skills to wrap your head around in synthesis is the idea that sources are “in conversation” with one another. A “conversation” means there is a central discussion about a topic, and these different sources have different answers to that topic in the form of arguments. Some sources agree with one another or “support one another,” while others disagree or qualify. When you’re using these sources as evidence of something you’re arguing, sophistication happens when you’re able to recognize how those sources are entering the conversation.

Directions: For this task, you will be given eight sources. Explore all eight sources. Then, choose ONE research question. From there, you will create a visual gallery display that shows what the sources say and where you currently stand in response. This is not an essay and it’s not a slideshow. Think of this as a museum exhibit, a conference poster, a vision board, a research detective board, a travel journal, or an art installation. Your display is due on the first day of class. Within the first week, we will have a tour of the displays as our first in-class assignment. This is an opportunity to not only show your thoughts on the sources, but also a way to be visually creative. Use this time to “go all out.”

If you get overwhelmed, remember there is no right or wrong answer, and you’re just starting to think about arguments in this way. Just try your best and be prepared to justify your choices.

For your display, you can choose one of the following displays. Please remember that your display must be printed out and cannot be digital:

- ★ Tri-fold board
- ★ Poster board
- ★ Large paper
- ★ Canva (printed)
- ★ Mixed media

WHO IS IN THE CONVERSATION?

I CHOSE 4 SOURCES TO REPRESENT DIFFERENT VOICES.

1 VIDEO POEM:
"THE SURVIVOR TREE"



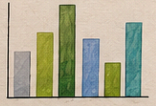
- Voice: Poet / Narrator
- Care about: Hope, healing, and the power of nature to survive.
- Contribution: **STORY + EMOTION**

2 ESSAY:
"OF MEMORY AND DEMOCRACY"

"Memory is not just about the past, it shapes our future."

- Voice: Historian / Writer
- Care about: Collective memory and how we shape a just democracy.
- Contribution: **PERSPECTIVE + ARGUMENT**

3 RESEARCH ARTICLE:
"UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL VS. WORKPLACE RESILIENCE"



- Voice: Researchers
- Care about: What helps people and systems bounce back.
- Contribution: **EVIDENCE + PERSPECTIVE**

4 POEM:
"WHAT THE WATER TOOK"



- Voice: Poet
- Care about: Loss, grief, and what we carry forward.
- Contribution: **STORY + EMOTION**

★ Full list of all 8 sources is on the back!

RECOVERY

is more than rebuilding.

THE QUESTION I EXPLORED

How should communities balance rebuilding with preserving memory?

WHY I CHOSE THIS QUESTION

I was interested in this question because it makes me think about hard choices. When something tragic happens, we want to move forward, but we also don't want to forget. I was drawn to this because I've seen my own community struggle with what to keep, what to change, and how to honor the past while building a better future. It felt unresolved to me.

This question is about more than buildings—it's about people.



What we remember shapes what we become.

PEOPLE. MEMORY. JUSTICE. FUTURE.

WHAT DID I NOTICE?

★ ONE IDEA THAT KEPT APPEARING:
Recovery takes time—there's no quick or right way.

⚡ ONE DISAGREEMENT I NOTICED:
Some sources focus on moving forward quickly, while others say we must slow down and remember first.

🧩 ONE SOURCE THAT COMPLICATED THINGS:
The research article showed that resilience is both personal and systemic—it's more complicated than I thought.

💥 ONE SOURCE THAT SURPRISED ME:
The poem "What the Water Took" surprised me with how much emotion a poem can hold.

? ONE QUESTION THAT EMERGED:
Can a community ever truly move on if the pain isn't acknowledged?

WHERE I AM NOW

After exploring these sources, my current answer is that communities should try to balance rebuilding with preserving memory by listening to many voices and being intentional. Recovery can't just be about fixing what was broken—it also has to include honoring what was lost. Sources like the essay and the video poem show how memory helps us stay connected and learn from the past. The research article reminds me that resilience is stronger when people and systems work together. I think the best recovery includes time for healing, space for remembrance, and action for the future.

WHAT I STILL WONDER: How do we make sure all voices are included in decisions about recovery?

What's an Argument?

An **argument** is a claim the author is trying to convince you of. It usually answers the question: **"What is the author saying about the topic, and what are they trying to prove or persuade the reader to believe?"**

Examples:

- Not an argument: "The tree survived 9/11."
- An argument: "The survival of the tree represents how humans can rebuild even after tragedy."

Tips for finding arguments:

- Look for **reasons** or **because** statements
- Ask: What is the author's **message** or **lesson**? What am I supposed to **do** because I have read this? What is supposed to be **your, the community's, the nation's, the world's action** based on this argument?
- Some arguments are **stated directly**. Others are **implied**, and you'll have to infer them based on the evidence and tone.

USE THESE STEPS TO GUIDE YOUR SUMMER WORK

STEP 1 — CHOOSE ONE RESEARCH QUESTION

Choose ONE:

- ☐ To what extent is recovery an individual responsibility versus a collective one?
- ☐ How should communities balance rebuilding with preserving memory?
- ☐ What responsibilities do institutions have in supporting recovery?
- ☐ How do different groups define successful recovery?
- ☐ When should communities prioritize future solutions over restoring the past?

STEP 2 — EXPLORE ALL 8 SOURCES AND COMPLETE THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Complete the Source Snapshot Chart Graphic Organizer. For each source record:

Title

Reaction Explanation:

- ★ Interesting
- 💬 Made me think
- 😲 Surprised me
- ❤ Connected to... (another source? An idea?)
- 😞 Confused

What contribution this source makes in response to the research question you've chosen:

- ☐ Evidence
- ☐ Perspective
- ☐ Story
- ☐ Emotion
- ☐ Question
- ☐ Argument

One question it left me with...(1–2 sentences only.)

STEP 3 — BUILD YOUR GALLERY DISPLAY

CENTER PANEL (Largest Section)

THE QUESTION

Write your chosen research question. Underneath: Why did you choose this question? (3–5 sentences)

Include:

- What interested you?
- What drew you in?
- What felt unresolved?

Add:

A visual symbol that represents the question.

LEFT PANEL

WHO IS IN THE CONVERSATION?

Choose 4 sources. For each source include:

1. Source Name
2. What voice appears?
3. What does this source seem to care about?
4. What contribution does it make to your chosen research question?

Provide on your display *any of the following*:

- ★ Evidence
- ★ Perspective
- ★ Experience
- ★ Story
- ★ Emotion
- ★ Question
- ★ Argument

RIGHT PANEL

WHAT DID I NOTICE?

Complete:

- ☐ One idea that kept appearing:
- ☐ One disagreement I noticed:
- ☐ One source that complicated things:
- ☐ One source that surprised me:
- ☐ One question that emerged:

Create arrows and connections from your “notice” sections to their corresponding sources. This section should look messy—in a good way.

Show thinking.

BOTTOM SECTION (Across Entire Board)

WHERE I AM NOW

Write: After exploring these sources, my current answer to the research question is...

Your response should be 150–250 words. Use ideas from the sources to support your thoughts. You may agree, disagree, change your mind, remain uncertain.

Finish with:

What I still wonder:

INTERACTIVE FEATURES YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER:

- ★ QR codes
- ★ Lift-the-flap sections
- ★ String connections
- ★ Sticky-note questions
- ★ Pocket with source cards
- ★ Mini envelopes
- ★ Color coding
- ★ Foldouts
- ★ Pull tabs

Links to the Sources:

Video Poem: “The Survivor Tree”  The Survivor Tree (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU1rf-481QI)	Essay: “Of Memory and Democracy”  Of Memory and Democracy.pdf
Research Article: “Understanding Individual vs. Workplace Resilience: Assessing workplace resiliency using a systemic approach.” https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/building-resilient-minds/202308/understanding-individual-vs-workplace-resilience	Article: “A Small Measure of Justice”  A Small Measure of Justice.pdf
Argumentative Article: “In Hawaii, concerns over ‘climate gentrification’ rise after devastating Maui fires” https://afterthefireusa.org/in-hawaii-concerns-over-climate-gentrification-rise-after-devastating-maui-fires/	Research Study: “Weighing Values and Risks of Beloved Invasive Species: the Case of the Survivor Tree and Conflict Management in Urban Green Infrastructure”  Weighing Values and Risks of Beloved Invasiv...
Research Study: “Shared Traumatic Stress among Social Workers in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina” by Carol Tosone, John P. McTighe and Jennifer Bauwens  Shared Traumatic Stress among Social Worker...	Artwork: Washington Crossing the Delaware Emanuel Leutze German/American 1851  Washington Crossing the Delaware

AP Seminar Summer Assignment Rubric

Category	Description	Points
<i>Source Engagement</i>	☐ Student demonstrates thoughtful interaction with the sources rather than surface-level completion. ☐ Student meaningfully engages with multiple sources and demonstrates curiosity, thoughtfulness, and reflection. Shows evidence of noticing ideas, perspectives, and questions.	5 Points
<i>SOURCE CONTRIBUTION & PERSPECTIVES</i>	☐ Student identifies what sources contribute to the conversation. Are the sources serving as evidence, perspective, story, emotion, question, or argument? ☐ Student accurately identifies voices, perspectives, and contributions and demonstrates understanding that sources function differently.	5 Points
<i>INQUIRY & QUESTION DEVELOPMENT</i>	☐ Student selects or develops a meaningful research question and explores it thoughtfully. ☐ Question selection feels intentional and the display shows authentic exploration and curiosity.	5 Points
<i>THINKING & CONNECTIONS</i>	☐ Student notices patterns, tensions, relationships, and emerging ideas within and across the different sources. ☐ Student demonstrates meaningful connections, identifies recurring ideas or tensions, and moves beyond summary.	5 Points
<i>VISUAL COMMUNICATION & CARE</i>	☐ Display supports understanding and reflects thoughtful presentation. ☐ Display is organized, polished, visually intentional, and enhances meaning.	5 Points
Above and Beyond	BONUS (UP TO +3) ☐ +1 Included all 8 sources ☐ +1 Added meaningful visual symbolism (not decorative only) ☐ +1 Gallery Walk Ready (interactive features, discussion prompts, QR code, sticky notes, etc.)	Up to 3 Points
Total Points Earned:		/25

Name: _____

AP SEMINAR SUMMER INQUIRY SOURCE SNAPSHOT CHART

Directions: Complete one row for FOUR sources. You are not expected to fully understand every source. Your goal is to notice ideas and begin entering the conversation.

Source Title	First Reaction (Circle + Explain)	What is this source contributing? (Choose up to 2)	What voices or stakeholders appear? (Who seems represented? Who seems missing?)	One thing that stuck with you (quote, image, moment, statistic, idea)	One question this source left you with (1–2 sentences only)
Source 1	☐  Interesting ☐  Made me think ☐  Surprised me ☐  Connected to... ☐  Confused	☐ Evidence ☐ Perspective ☐ Story ☐ Emotion ☐ Question ☐ Argument			

Source Title	First Reaction (Circle + Explain)	What is this source contributing? (Choose up to 2)	What voices or stakeholders appear? (Who seems represented? Who seems missing?)	One thing that stuck with you (quote, image, moment, statistic, idea)	One question this source left you with (1–2 sentences only)
Source 2	☐ ★ Interesting ☐ ☁ Made me think ☐ 😲 Surprised me ☐ ❤ Connected to... ☐ 🤔 Confused	☐ Evidence ☐ Perspective ☐ Story ☐ Emotion ☐ Question ☐ Argument			

Source Title	First Reaction (Circle + Explain)	What is this source contributing? (Choose up to 2)	What voices or stakeholders appear? (Who seems represented? Who seems missing?)	One thing that stuck with you (quote, image, moment, statistic, idea)	One question this source left you with (1–2 sentences only)
Source 3	☐ ★ Interesting ☐ ☁ Made me think ☐ 😲 Surprised me ☐ ❤ Connected to... ☐ 🤔 Confused	☐ Evidence ☐ Perspective ☐ Story ☐ Emotion ☐ Question ☐ Argument			

Source Title	First Reaction (Circle + Explain)	What is this source contributing? (Choose up to 2)	What voices or stakeholders appear? (Who seems represented? Who seems missing?)	One thing that stuck with you (quote, image, moment, statistic, idea)	One question this source left you with (1–2 sentences only)
Source 4	☐ ★ Interesting ☐ ☁ Made me think ☐ 😲 Surprised me ☐ ❤ Connected to... ☐ 🤔 Confused	☐ Evidence ☐ Perspective ☐ Story ☐ Emotion ☐ Question ☐ Argument			